

TUC calls conference to organize fight for shorter working hours

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Faced with high unemployment and declining membership, the TUC has called a conference to draw up plans to fight employers' continuing resistance to shorter working hours.

The TUC already claims some success in its campaign: in the past four years most manual workers have breached the 40-hour week "barrier" and increased holiday entitlements by a week.

But the labour movement acknowledges that much still needs to be done to achieve the target of a 35-hour week, six weeks annual holiday, the choice of early retirement on adequate pensions and cuts in overtime. On the latter aim trade union leaders have encountered opposition from their own members, who are seeking to keep up their earnings.

The policy of reduced working time is the TUC's answer to the Government's refusal to intervene to create employment. A discussion paper says

MANUAL MALE WORKERS

	Basic hours	Overtime	Total hours	Percentage working overtime	Overtime per worker
1979	39.9	6.3	46.2	58.5	10.8
1980	39.7	5.7	45.4	54.3	10.3
1981	39.7	4.5	44.2	48.8	9.5
1982	39.4	4.9	44.3	48.3	9.7
1983	38.2	4.7	42.9	49.8	9.3

Source: TUC/News Services Survey

Car death as pony falls on M5

A woman was killed and her husband and two sons were injured late on New Year's Day after a pony jumped from a lorry into the path of their car on the M5 near Bridgwater, Somerset.

The lorry tailboard had sprung open and the pony, one of 12 being taken to winter pasture, kicked through wooden gates to get out.

Mr William Roberts, aged 46, a salesman, who was driving home to Weston-super-Mare, Avon, after a day out with his family, hit the pony, which was killed, and the car spun off the road.

Mrs Gail Roberts, aged 43, was killed instantly, and Mr Roberts and his sons, Nicholas, aged 21, and Elliott, aged 18, were taken to hospital. Mr Nicholas Roberts was still in hospital yesterday and was said to be comfortable.

Cable TV awaits operating terms

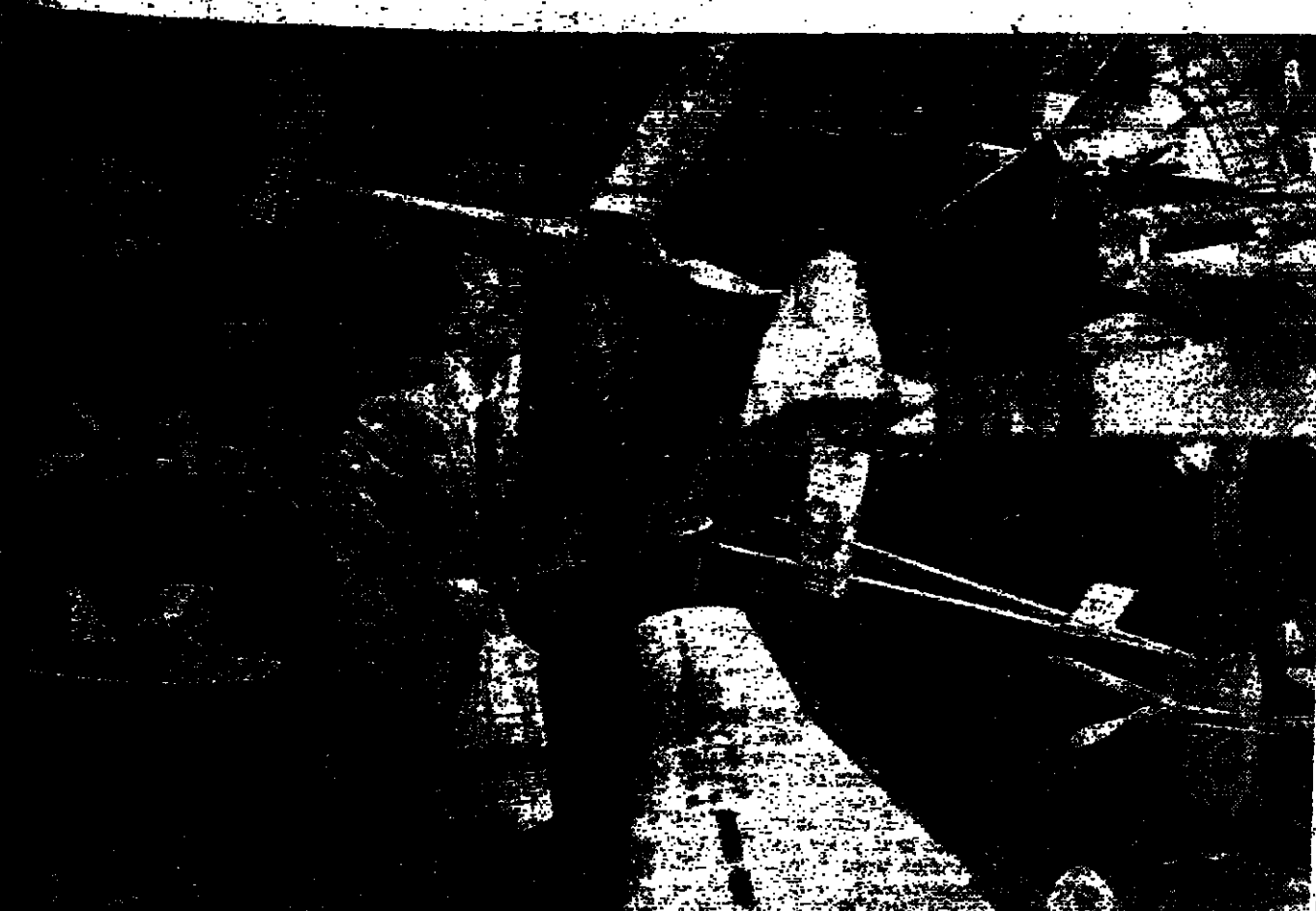
By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The Home Office has ended the first round of talks with the companies awarded conditional licences to operate multichannel cable television networks.

The franchises, given approval at the end of November, are only to be granted after the Government is satisfied that certain programming and possibly financial undertakings are given. The conditions vary according to the company and remain unpublished.

"The Home Office has sought 'information and assurances' from the cable consortia which will meet government officials again in another series of meetings later this month to agree the operating terms of the franchises."

The 11, awarded from 37 applications, have been criticized for their geographical bias toward the South-east. Five are in the extended London area with only one in the Midlands



Aerial view: Close inspection for a display by the Society of Antique Aircraft Modellers at the Model Engineer Exhibition in the Wembley Conference Centre. More than a thousand exhibits are shown, including trains, ships, and cars, and there are model aircraft flying displays in the auditorium. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Yard aid in Whitehall 'mole' hunt

By Pat Healy

The hunt for the Whitehall "mole" who leaked a confidential memorandum on the arrival of cruise missiles appears to be making progress. The Director of Public Prosecutions has asked for help from Scotland Yard, indicating that there is now firm evidence for the police to work on.

Det Chief Supt Ronald Hardy of the Yard's serious crime squad is heading the investigation, which involves five government offices and three in Parliament. The memorandum to the Prime Minister from Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, is believed to have been sent to the Home Office, Foreign Office and Cabinet Office as well as the Offices of the Government Chief Whip and leaders of the Lords and Commons.

The "mole" could have worked in any of these offices or in Mr Heseltine's Ministry staff. The search has been made easier by the decision of *The Guardian*, to whom the memorandum was leaked, to comply with a High Court decision ordering its return.

Meanwhile, action to oppose cruise missiles and the arrival of Trident missiles is being extended in Britain. Ms Helen John, one of the original Greenham Common women, was arrested by Ministry of Defence police outside the base yesterday. She was released on bail and ordered to appear before Newbury magistrates tomorrow on a charge of causing criminal damage to fencing.

The arrest provoked an immediate protest from Mrs Ann Clwyd, MEP for Mid and West Wales, who said arrests at the base had increased since cruise missiles became operational on New Year's Eve.

"I can only assume that the authorities, under instruction from Mr Heseltine, have decided to harass and intimidate the women who are keeping vigil outside the base," she said.

Greenham women living at the six peace camps around the base have set up rotas to watch for departing launchers of other vehicles connected with the missiles. In their latest newsletter they are appealing for more women to help in the watches and to make their telephone numbers available.

BR denies planning big cuts in services

By Kenneth Gossling

British Rail strenuously denies that there is to be any large-scale restructuring of the rail network next May after reports that the new timetables will concentrate on big cuts in off-peak services.

The 30 per cent reductions planned for some parts of the South-east were criticized by the rail unions and Mr John Prescott, the shadow transport minister, who accused British Rail and the Government of being "in cahoots" in a plan to shrink the rail system.

Mr James Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said services would continue to deteriorate unless there was a change of attitude, adequate investment and financial support. Fares rise by an average of 4 per cent on Sunday.

The rail unions' federation is to meet, probably late next week, to consider what Knapp called "the whole serious position facing the railways and the public transport industry" and to decide further action.

Mr Prescott said he is to demand a Commons debate on a weekend report by the Transport Users' Consultative Committee for London and the South-East, which he said meant massive cuts in routes and services on a scale far worse than any envisaged by Dr Beeching.

It demonstrated, he said, the reason the Opposition was fighting the Government's decision to cut £200m from the public service obligation to British Rail.

British Rail reacted calmly to the onslaught yesterday. It said it was "as much swings as it is roundabouts". British Rail was to match the service to demand, and the biggest changes were on the Southern region, where services were being recast, particularly on the central division where a new Gatwick service was being introduced.

British Rail regions are reluctant to give details of new timetables until March, but these are the details so far:

SOUTHERN: Reductions in peak hour trains from Canterbury, Maidstone and Hastings; 30 per cent reduction from Dover and Folkestone to London. Fewer trains to London from Kent and Sussex; 25 per cent reductions in inner suburban services from areas like Streatham, Croydon, Farnley and Bexleyheath; no Sunday service from Streatham, Farnley and Peckham Rye.

WESTERN: Little change on services to Bristol and South Wales. Cuts will be equivalent to losing four trains each way in the middle of the day.

MIDLANDS: "As far as we can at the present stage, nothing drastic affecting us at all."

EASTERN: Very little alteration. No information on any cut. Things "still being formulated but nothing drastic envisaged."

SCOTTISH: No big cuts. "Nothing but good news this year." Timetables not finalized, but speed-up planned in services to London. Observation cars planned for West Highland line, where there is also the possibility of return of steam.

Garages reject register

Calls for a statutory system of garage registration in Britain have been rejected by the Institute of the Motor Industry.

The institute, which represents professionals in the motor trade, says that competition and improved training for garage staff are more likely to give customers a better deal than government-imposed regulations.

Legally-enforceable garage registration was one of the options set out by the Office of Fair Trading in its recent discussion paper on car servicing and repairs.

But the institute says: "We do not believe that registration and legislation is in the best interests of the customer."

"The lack of a single acceptable professional qualification would inevitably lead to a heavy policing cost and the potential development of a bureaucracy that could severely affect workshop efficiency."

Churchill's Cabinet had other worries, too. A constant headache, according to the minutes, was the productivity of coal miners. Great consternation was caused by a proposal from the Jockey Club to rearrange the day on which the St Leger was held at Doncaster race course.

Traditionally it was held on Wednesday but during the 1947 fuel emergency it had been switched to Saturday to keep the racinggoers' minds of Yorkshire from the pits cutting coal.

Now the stewards wanted the race run on Wednesday again. Ministers feared: "high absenteeism and large scale coal losses" and the Cabinet resolved to twist the stewards' arms hard.

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The Cabinet records for 1953 disclose a number of other "might have been". One is the title of the Queen. During Cabinet discussions of the Coronation oath, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr James Stuart, made a vigorous bid to have the Queen styled simply Queen Elizabeth, on the grounds that she was not Elizabeth II of Scotland.

Narrow gap in race for Chesterfield nomination

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Wedgwood Benn is thought to be running neck and neck with another former MP, Mr Philip Whitehead, for the Chesterfield nomination in the Labour nomination in the constituency.

It was reported last night that there was severe depression in the anti-Benn camp, nationally, because of Derbyshire intelligence that Mr Benn was "home and dry".

But Mr Benn's local opponents, in Chesterfield, dismissed that suggestion, saying that the odds were 6 to 4 in Mr Whitehead's favour.

One member of the 144-member general committee which will choose the candidate on January 15 last night hinted that there was considerable organization behind the anti-Benn faction in the constituency party.

Certainly, the right wing last week managed to muster enough voting power to give Mr Whitehead, former MP for Derby, North, the nomination from Rother ward, which had previously been regarded as a militant stronghold.

But even Mr Benn's opponents reckon that he has enough support to lead in the first ballot for selection, although no one expects to achieve the required outright majority at that stage of the elimination process.

Labour leadership interest in the by-election, expected in March, is acute. No one doubts that Mr Neil Kinnock would privately favour Mr Whitehead to contest the seat, if only because Mr Benn's candidature would focus attention on Labour divisions.

The other former Labour MP whose name has been mentioned in the race for nominations, Miss Joan Lester, was said to have received no backing from Chesterfield wards and union branches.

It is thought that when the party executive meets to draw up a shortlist on Friday, there will be about ten nominations on the table.

Apart from Mr Benn and Mr Whitehead, there are three local council leaders: Mr William Flanagan, of Chesterfield borough; Mr Clifford Fox, of north-east Derbyshire district; and Mr David Bookbinder, of Derbyshire county, who was parliamentary candidate for Amber Valley in June.

Mr Paul Vaughan, the constituency party president, Mr John Lenthall, constituency party treasurer, and Mr Terence Kendall, chairman of finance on the borough council, have also been nominated along with two outside nominees from the national candidates' panels maintained by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Unrest in Invincible crew denied

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence last night denied a report that members of the crew of HMS Invincible, which is now sailing in the Far East, were so dissatisfied that 70 per cent of them wanted either to leave the Navy or change ships.

The report in the *Daily Star*, based on a letter from an unnamed member of the crew, said that sailors were being used as "skivvies". They were being constantly humiliated and abused by officers, and had to do extra duties in connection with cocktail parties given on board by the officers.

A spokesman for the ministry said that if levels of discontent had reached anything like those suggested the Navy would have already been very well aware of it. There were "probably" a few crew members who were complaining.

Receptions were held on the ship as a means of reciprocating the hospitality and good will shown by people at the ports which the ships visited. Those people often went to considerable trouble in organizing, sporting, and other events for the crew.

Invincible sailed for the Far East in September and is not due to return to Britain until April. The ministry said that from the point of view of good will the voyage so far had been a great success.

NGA to renew plea for support from TUC

By Our Labour Reporter

Leaders of the National Graphical Association are to appear before the TUC's employment policy and organization committee (EPOC) on Friday to renew their pleas for help in the *Stockport Messenger* dispute.

A special meeting of the committee has been called by its chairman Mr William Keyes, general secretary of the print union NGA, who is making a fresh attempt this week to find a solution to the dispute.

It will be the first meeting of the committee since its decision to "back" a 24-hour national newspaper strike was repudiated last month by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, who was then backed by its general council.

EPOC's motion to offer a "supportive" attitude to the strike by the NGA, whose £1m funds have been sequestered by the courts, was referred back to the committee.

An attempt by Mr Mostyn (Moss) Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, to set up an NGA support group among left-wing unions has been put in abeyance until after Friday's EPOC talks and a meeting of the NGA's national council in a fortnight's time.

The NGA's battle for the closed shop at Messenger group plants and the reinstatement of six of its members on strike at the company's Stockport plant has bought fines of £675,000 for contempt of court.

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Churchill and Eden wanted to stop ITV

By Peter G. Bessley and David Walker

Independent television might never have come to Britain if the views of Sir Winston Churchill and other senior Conservatives had prevailed in the early 1950s, according to official papers released by the Public Record Office this week.

Cabinet records for 1953 show leading ministers bestirred by the prospect of a television monopoly. Churchill, grumbled about an issue, "in no way vital to the safety of the state" that had not even figured in the Conservatives' 1951 manifesto, and at several points during 1953 the Cabinet came close to abandoning the whole idea of commercial television.

New variations

If the idea had foundered then, it seems unlikely that either of Churchill's Conservative successors would have revived it. Sir Anthony Eden distanced the plan for commercial broadcasting and thought it would be run by hated newspaper proprietors. According to the Cabinet minute-taker, He does not think a Conservative Government ought to introduce

a measure which might adversely affect the taste and education of the people."

Eden's successor, Mr Harold Macmillan, was not much more enthusiastic. No "high principles" were involved. Bringing in commercial television smacked only of "political expediency", he wrote in a Cabinet memorandum.

The Conservatives were in danger of losing many friends over the issue. "The coalition against us includes Church, Kirk and Counting House, the combination of forces which finally drove out the Sturges." Unless independent television could be introduced within nine months, Mr Macmillan favoured dropping the idea for ever.

Cabinet's home and foreign secrets revealed

Britain nearly got a new system of spelling in 1953 when Mr I. J. Pittman successfully introduced to the Commons a Bill for phonetic spelling. It reached the third reading stage before the government chief whip agonizedly reported to the Cabinet that there was no guarantee it could be defeated.

High absenteeism

Churchill was alarmed at the potential threat to the language. Eventually a deal was struck with Mr Pittman. He withdrew his Bill on condition that the Ministry of Education undertook to promote research on teaching reading by means of the "no spelling".

Churchill's Cabinet had other worries, too. A constant headache, according to the minutes, was the productivity of coal miners. Great consternation was caused by a proposal from the Jockey Club to rearrange the day on which the St Leger was held at Doncaster race course.

Traditionally it was held on Wednesday but during the 1947 fuel emergency it had been switched to Saturday to keep the racinggoers' minds of Yorkshire from the pits cutting coal.

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Plans for takeover in Thailand

A secret plan, prepared in 1953 on the orders of Sir Winston Churchill, for British troops to occupy a slice of southern Thailand to prevent Malaysia falling to the Communists is revealed in Cabinet and chiefs-of-staff papers declassified this week under the 30-year rule.

Though British forces had been fighting Communist insurgents in Malaya with increasing success for five years, the chiefs were fearful of a domino effect if Indo-China fell to the Viet Minh or if Thailand was subverted from within.

They sought, therefore, Cabinet approval of a contingency plan for the occupation of the Songkhla position across the Malay peninsula north of the Malaysian border.

At a special staff conference with the chiefs on April 26, 1953, Churchill authorized detailed preparation of the plan in strict secrecy. Only those who "needed to know" should be informed, and the plan "should certainly not be disclosed".

In May, General Sir Gerald Templer, British High Commissioner in Malaya, was attempting to infiltrate counter-intelligence teams into the

Templer: Infiltration attempted

Songkhla area to prepare the ground for a possible occupation.

By November 1953, however, Sir Gerald was able to report to the chiefs that the insurgency was dying down owing to "loss of tactical initiative by the communists, lowering of communist morale [and] considerable internal dissension in the communist ranks fostered by various intelligence organizations".

British forces, in fact, never managed to penetrate the small, hard core of Malayan communists. They had been fighting in the jungle since 1941 and "had developed superb clandestine techniques which made them extremely difficult to kill".

Timonov: Russia Britain and the home, combating the Mao Mao

Rear seat safety harness law sought as hundreds are saved by 'belt-up' rule

By Thomson Prentice

The hundreds of lives which have been saved and the many thousands of people who have escaped serious injury in the "year of the seat belt" will help to speed new laws on rear seat belts in cars, experts believe.

Wearing seat belts in the front of cars and light vans became compulsory on January 31 last year, and evidence of big reductions in road accident casualties since then is being gathered throughout Britain.

From saving as many as 700 lives, seat belts are thought to have prevented serious injuries between 5,000 and 7,000 others.

Cases of facial scarring caused by people crashing through windcreens have fallen dramatically: at one hospital they were 70 per cent fewer such injuries in the first two months of legislation.

Drivers and passengers who would have died without seat belts have escaped with minor injuries, and chest and leg injuries have become more common than head wounds.

But the number of organs available for transplant has not been affected, because most come from pedestrians or cyclists involved in accidents.

The first national statistics on how many lives have been saved are likely to be made known in April, after a two-year survey of 10 hospitals, led by Mr William Rutherford, head of the accident and emergency department of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

He said: "The early indications are very encouraging. There has certainly been a significant drop in the number of deaths and serious injuries."

In 1982, 2,227 people were killed in the front seats of cars and vans, and 130,000 others injured. 28,530 of them seriously. Seat belts were then worn by only 40 per cent of front seat occupants. Now more than 90 per cent obey the seat belt law.

In the first month after the law was introduced, there were no fatal accidents in Norfolk, compared with 19 in 1981.

In February 1982, by May, Birmingham Eye Hospital had treated only one victim injured by windscreen fragments. There were previously about ten such patients in that four-month span.

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deaths and serious injuries had fallen by 20 per cent. Scotland Yard estimated the drop at 25 per cent for the deaths in accidents in the Metropolitan area of London, and 24 per cent for serious injuries.

By August, Devon Police had recorded 96 fewer serious casualties, a drop of 17 per cent over the equivalent 1982 period, and West Mercia Police's casualty total showed a 6.5 per cent drop by September.

Plastic surgeons were required to help fewer victims badly scarred by hitting windcreens. Mr Derek Mercer of the plastic surgery unit at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, Sussex, noted in the *British Medical Journal* that such referrals had "fallen dramatically".

The Royal Automobile Club, which was against the legislation being introduced, admitted to a change of heart. "We have always been in favour of people wearing seat belts, but we were against it being compulsory for them to do so," the RAC said. "Having seen the early statistics, we are delighted that more lives are being saved. The law has definitely had a beneficial effect, and we support it."

Now many doctors and safety researchers are pressing for the compulsory use of rear seat belts in cars.

Dr Murray Mackay, head of the accident research unit at Birmingham University, said: "The seat belt law is the most important piece of legislation in road safety in a generation. It is saving perhaps two lives a day."

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and reducing hospital admissions by up to ten a day.

"If rear seat occupants were restrained by belts, it would save 70 per cent of those killed in the back of cars. Not only that, an extra 6 per cent of front seat passengers would also be saved, because that is the percentage killed by the impact of their rear passengers."

On these percentages, using 1982 figures, 255 rear occupants and 151 front seat occupants would escape death in crashes. Forty per cent of rear seat passengers are children, representing 82 children killed in 1982.

Dr Charles Brook, consultant paediatrician at the Central Middlesex Hospital, London, said: "I have seen children with faces half torn away, a child with his back broken by a head restraint, and two others thrown through windows on impact."

Mr John Hindle, consultant in charge of the accident and emergency unit at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, said: "We had the victims of a head-on collision just before Christmas. The parents in the front seats of one car survived with relatively minor injuries. But their two children in the back were killed."

A study of 10,000 accidents conducted by the Volvo motor manufacturers, has shown that rear seat occupants are as likely to be hurt through the windscreen or side windows as are front occupants. Other research has shown how an eleven-stone adult in the back of a car becomes a two-ton projectile when the vehicle is involved in a 30mph crash.

But although anchorage points for rear belts have been mandatory in cars in Britain since October 1981, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Department of Transport, has responded only cautiously to demands for making rear seat belts compulsory. "The issue has been raised many times," she told the Commons in July, "and is something with which we should proceed with all caution. Let us get the fitting of the belts and the type of belts correct first."

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Fan dancer: Jennifer Menard, aged 13, cooling down before taking part in dancing event at the Hammersmith Palais, London yesterday. (Photo: Kids' (left))

News speak: the voice of authority

By Kenneth Gosling

BBC English is still highly regarded by most people and its users are credited with honesty, integrity and intelligence and even good looks.

Four accents come rock bottom in the public's estimation, according to Professor John Honey, head of Leicester Polytechnic's School of Education, writing in the magazine *Personnel Management*.

Those are Cockney, Liverpool, Glaswegian, and Edinburgh. Scottish is rated highly; Geordie, Yorkshire and West-country come roughly midway in popularity.

"Push" and "exaggerated accents" producing words like "arf", "clorb" and "leest" are a turn-off, he says. They are known as "marked RP", the initials standing for "received pronunciation".

Marked RP speakers say "bad" as "bed" and "stones" as "stains". Some members of the Royal Family talk like this, so that speakers like the Prince of Wales tend to "move above the line", he says.

The professor notes the significance of accents in advertising, appealing to people of Glasgow, London, Liverpool and Birmingham not in the local accents used by the majority, but in much more standard forms.

And he praises "brilliant" speakers like Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, who manages different accents according to their audience. In a television interview.

But while Professor Honey maintains that the broadcasting bodies have trouble promoting a wide range of accents because news thus pronounced loses its credibility, the BBC denied there was any such objection from listeners or viewers.

"There is no policy to exclude accents or to have uniformity of accents," a spokeswoman in a strong regional accent said.

Professor Honey, however, believes it to be revealing to note the main functions for which radio and television use local accents: weather, sports commentaries and comedy.

He adds that speakers with "less prestigious" accents, especially speech containing non-standard grammar or vocabulary, will have more difficulty than RP speakers in asserting their rights in a court of law, when stopped by a policeman, or in a tight spot anywhere when credibility is at a premium.

Even *Coronation Street* reflects "right" and "wrong" accents. Ken Barlow and Annie Walker use a northern version of RP; Stan and Hilda Ogden are unschooled and slow-witted and have thick accents.

Professor Honey concludes that it would be helpful if our educational system set itself both to discuss accent differences more frankly and to increase the facility of all pupils to exploit a wider repertoire of speaking styles.

Brewers raise prices

Beer prices in the growing take-home sector catered for mainly by the supermarkets are expected to rise shortly, probably by at least 2p for a 16-ounce can.

A tougher attitude by brewers about loss-leading sales by supermarkets over Christmas mainly of spirits sold wholesale by some brewers is a factor behind the likely rise in packaged beer prices.

But there is also growing speculation that some brewers will be raising draught beer prices for public houses and clubs before the next Budget.

This is because a disproportionate increase in beer excise duties is threatened as Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, considers how to meet a European Court ruling on the ratio of excise duty between beer and wine.

If the ratio were adjusted in a single move with beer carrying the entire burden the price of a pint could rise by at least 7p. But a mixture of beer duty increase and wine duty decrease, probably spacing the

increase, would be less likely to cause a big cutback in beer drinking overall the effect on beer production is more likely to be seen during January as those retailers, including pubs, left with heavy stocks cut back on January ordering.

Overall beer production in 1983 could still turn out to be marginally higher than the year before. By the end of October production was 0.4 per cent up on the same period of 1982.

Then came the tough campaigns against drinking and driving which have had a reportedly patchy effect on the pub trade. It could have meant a boost in take-home sales as well as for pubs within walking distance of sizable communities.

But if the anti-drinking campaigns prove to have produced a big cutback in beer drinking overall the effect on beer production is more likely to be seen during January as those retailers, including pubs, left with heavy stocks cut back on January ordering.

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Bridge attack opens new rebel drive

San Salvador (NYT) - The destruction of El Salvador's largest and most important bridge on Sunday by left-wing guerrillas marks the beginning of a new offensive, according to Radio Voz, the rebel radio station, yesterday.

The radio called the offensive "All of the people against imperialism intervention until victory." It said the offensive "will demonstrate superior levels of unified coordination between all of our forces throughout the country."

The rebel broadcast did not report casualties, saying only that numerous soldiers had been wounded or killed in the fighting. During the last week, government troops have suffered heavy casualties against left wing forces. Despite the announcement of the new

the largest number in a single battle during the four-year-old civil war. El Paraiso was the fourth largest army base in the country.

It is unclear how the guerrillas were able to mass in both El Paraiso and near the Cuscatlan bridge without the knowledge of government troops.

Earlier last week, the Defence Ministry announced the beginning of new operations in both regions, and troops were reportedly patrolling before the attacks.

On Saturday, reporters in Tejutla, a town five miles north of El Paraiso, said that more than 1,000 government troops were stationed less than 20 minutes away.

Despite knowledge that guerrillas were in Tejutla, looting in the central square and processing prisoners they had taken in El Paraiso, the Government troops did not have any plans to advance on the small town.

The loss of the quarter-mile long bridge was a serious setback for the economy of El Salvador, the Defence Ministry admitted, but motorists could still cross the river using a nearby dam. It was the last suspension bridge open to motorists travelling to the eastern part of the country.

Employees of the nearby hydro-electric plant said that the bridge plunged into the Rio Lempa at around 2.30 am. The hydroelectric plant nearby was also slightly damaged.

The US ambassador, Mr Thomas Pickering, declined to comment, saying only that he and his advisers were studying the extent of the damage.



GUATEMALA
50 miles
HONDURAS
Chalatenango
San Salvador
Cuscatlan bridge

government offensive, no battles have been actually started by Salvadoran soldiers.

Residents of Chalatenango near the army base in El Paraiso that was overrun on Friday, said that the army was burying its dead in mass graves, dug by bulldozers. They estimated more than 100 government casualties, which would make it



A bridge too far: Part of the Cuscatlan Bridge, the most important in El Salvador, lying in the river after being dynamited by left-wing guerrillas on Sunday.

Guatemala, Salvador top rights abuse list

New York (AFP) - Guatemala and El Salvador have been named the worst human rights violators in Latin America for the fourth consecutive year by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, a private, liberal-leaning body.

The Council said more than 10,000 "non-combatants" were killed in political violence in the two Central American states last year. The majority died at the hands of security forces and right wing "death squads", the council's eighth annual report said.

In El Salvador, the council reported at least 4,056 political civilian assassinations from January to November 1983. It estimated the figure might have reached 6,000 by the year's end.

The Army and Government were held largely responsible for the deaths of 4,000 to 5,000 people in 1983 in Guatemala, but death squads and guerrillas also had bloody hands.

Human rights were worsening in Honduras where about 100 political assassinations were carried out last year. The council said. "A clampdown on domestic dissent towards the Government's increasingly militaristic policies has plunged Honduras from its former rating as being one of the more respectable of Latin American governments."

The council also accused the Honduran Government of "channeling scarce domestic resources towards preparation for war with Nicaragua."

South Africa and its neighbours: Part 2

The loaded rifle in the bush

In the second of three articles, Michael Horvath, Southern Africa Correspondent, examines the three central problems which, singly or in combination, beset nearly all South Africa's neighbours: their geographic convenience as sanctuaries for African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas, their economic dependence on South Africa, and their internal instability.

Only Angola, so far as is known, actually contains military training camps for members of the ANC, which went underground and resorted to armed struggle after being outlawed by South Africa, in the early 1960s. But most countries in the region offer the ANC infiltration routes or shelter from South African pursuit.

Angola is unique in providing a home not only for the ANC but also for guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) fighting for the independence of Namibia (South West Africa), the former German colony still occupied by South Africa. In response, a broad swathe of Southern Angola has been virtually annexed by the South African Army.

But South Africa has also mounted periodic ground and air attacks on alleged ANC targets in both Lesotho and Mozambique, which wholly innocent civilians have been killed. One of these raids, on Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, last May, was in direct retaliation for the ANC's Pretoria car bomb which killed 19 people and injured more than 200.

Other countries in the region have been spared direct military assault, but South African refugees and ANC exiles in Botswana, Zimbabwe and Swaziland, as well as Mozambique, have been abducted or assassinated in recent years, presumably by South African agents.

South Africa is also presumed, on strong circumstantial evidence, to be giving support, mainly in the form of finance, arms, training and logistical back-up, to the motley collection of insurgents plaguing the governments of its neighbours. These offer Pretoria an invaluable weapon in countering regional support for the ANC.

They include the Swami movement of Dr Jonas Savimbi, which has operated from a stronghold in south-eastern Angola since before that country's independence; the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR); the Matabeleland rebels in Zimbabwe and the shadowy Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA).

Most of these rebellions have genuine indigenous roots, and it by no means follows, as the embattled governments claim, that the rebels would collapse without South African support.

support, though, in several cases their effectiveness would be seriously impaired. The MNR, in particular, seems to be very much the creature of Pretoria.

The South Africans hardly batted an eyelid last April, when Mr Orlando Cristina, MNR's secretary-general, and a former Portuguese secret agent, was murdered in his bed in what was handily described as a "faro", but was probably an MNR training camp.

The guerrilla activity severely hampers attempts by black states to reduce their economic dependence on South Africa, particularly in the transport field. South Africa possesses 73 per cent of the southern African rail network.



Dr Savimbi: Unita leader in Pretoria's pocket.

Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, the so-called BLS states, have always been heavily reliant on the South African transport system. But the guerrilla disruption of road and rail links serving ports in Angola and Mozambique means that most of Zimbabwe's foreign trade, as well as the copper exports of Zaire and Zambia, now pass through South Africa.

Between 70 and 75 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade, for example, is currently reckoned to be handled by South Africa, rather than the closer Mozambique ports.

Even without the guerrilla factor, South Africa's dominance would be inescapable. It accounts for nearly 80 per cent of the region's total gross national product, and per capita gap is five times the regional average.

It is also often a supplier of grain - only Zimbabwe and Malawi among the black states can normally expect to feed themselves - and employment. Last year, 108,000 Basuto (from Lesotho), 43,000 Mozambicans, 17,000 Batswana and 14,250 Malawians worked in South Africa's gold and coal mines.

The BLS states offer an extreme example of dependence, forming a customs union with South Africa, and in the case of Lesotho and Swaziland a monetary union as well. But no black state can ignore the white-ruled economic giant to the south.

Tomorrow: The front line

Country	Population	GDP Area (Sq miles)	Per capita GNP (US dollars)	Life expectancy at birth
Angola	7,800,000	483,333	440 (1979)	42
Botswana	900,000	232,558	1,010	57
Lesotho	1,400,000	11,527	540	52
Malawi	6,200,000	45,735	250	44
Mozambique	12,500,000	310,853	250 (1979)	47
Swaziland	600,000	6,589	760	54
Tanzania	19,100,000	386,279	280	52
Zambia	5,800,000	291,860	600	51
Zimbabwe	7,200,000	151,550	870	55
South Africa	28,000,000	473,255	2,770	63

(Source: World Bank. Figures refer to 1981 except where indicated in brackets.)

Five South Africans die in Angola

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

Five more South African soldiers have been killed in southern Angola in the drive against guerrillas of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) launched nearly a month ago.

A statement by Defence Headquarters in Pretoria yesterday identified them as a second lieutenant and four rifleman but gave no details. This brings the death toll so far to 14 - eight whites and five blacks - with one black soldier missing and presumed captured. No figures of wounded have been released.

Major General George Meiring, officer commanding the South-West Africa Territory Force claimed in Windhoek that 56 SWAPO guerrillas were known to have been killed so far.

Last week General Constand Viljoen, chief of the South African Defence Force said that between 800 and 1,000 guerrillas were attempting to infiltrate northern Namibia from southern Angola under the cover of Angolan government forces.

Zimbabwe MP falls to death

From Stephen Taylor
Harare

A Zimbabwean MP of Mr Ian Smith's white Republican Front party fell about 60ft to his death from a waterfall on New Year's Day.

Mr Donald Goddard, aged 33, one of the most controversial members of the House of Assembly, was picnicking with friends near Mr Smith's cattle ranch at Zvishavane when he slipped on a rock at the edge of the Lundi Falls. Friends, including two doctors, who reached him a minute later found him dead in a pool at the bottom of the falls.

Mr Goddard was a major in the Selous Scouts, a crack unit of the Rhodesian security forces which achieved notoriety in the last years of the guerrilla war and which was disbanded at independence.

Mr Smith said yesterday he was deeply saddened at the loss. "He was certainly a controversial character but he had compensating qualities, like great courage and integrity. He was developing into a very able debater."

Indians camp on ice

Delhi, (AP) - A team of Indian experts, 23 strong, has arrived in Antarctica to establish India's first permanent scientific station on the frozen continent.

The head of the expedition, Dr H. K. Gupta, reported by telephone at the weekend that work was on schedule thanks to good weather - temperatures of about 32 degrees Fahrenheit and little ice drift. The expedition, which includes two women, arrived on Tuesday last week.

Dr Gupta was speaking from the chartered Finnish icebreaker Finn Polar, which made the 24-day journey from India. The expedition's temporary camp is about 16 miles from the ship.

In September, India became a consultative member of the Antarctic Treaty, which bans nuclear explosions in Antarctica and suspends until 1991 the claim some of them overlapping, that many countries have on Antarctic territory.

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ABBEY NATIONAL'S NEW HIGHER INTEREST ACCOUNT

The Nigerian coup

Few tears for the corrupt politicians who brought about their own downfall

By Kenneth Mackenzie

"Nobody will shed a tear for the outgoing administration", a Nigerian lawyer said in London yesterday. And the general reaction from expatriate Nigerians — surprisingly to observers — is not one of outrage against the soldiers but one of angry disappointment about the failure of the civilian politicians.

A man who played a leading part in drawing up the constitution the military have now suspended would only say mildly that the coup was "most unfortunate, a setback". (He wished to remain anonymous, like most people interviewed, because of nervousness about the unpredictability of military men in power.)

The constitutional expert claimed that there was little wrong with the document that he and others had spent so many months working at in the Constituent Assembly. The trouble had come with the people who administered the constitution.

For instance, the constitution had provided for a code of conduct for politicians, with a bureau to administer it which was meant to receive declarations of assets from all ministers, and for a tribunal to hear complaints and investigate instances of corruption.

The Shagari government failed to appoint members to the tribunal. No cases were heard. Only the President and the Vice-President declared their assets. A party hack was appointed as chairman of the bureau.

There was similar inaction over the allegations of electoral malpractices in the August

election. A lawyer pointed out that court hearings since had produced proof that named electoral officers had fiddled the figures in favour of the governing party (24,000 became 224,000 in one instance). But no one has been prosecuted.

A Nigerian businessman recalled that it was not unusual to see rows of private jets lined up at Kaduna airport. Many belonged to people in or closely connected to the government, and it was impossible to believe that they represented wealth honestly acquired.

Government ministers, whose salaries were known, were seen to be living on a totally different scale, with mansions and Rolls-Royces in London, for instance.

British businessmen dealing with Nigeria were hesitant to express any opinion about future prospects until the personalities and policies of the new military administration become more clear. But they

are well known. According to Nigerian exiles, a crucial challenge will be to make money, not to serve the public.

The most depressing statistic emerging recently is that of the young graduates emerging from Nigerian universities and seeking to join the service, most applied to customs and excise department.

It is accepted that politicians and civil servants did it as their first priority: make money, not to serve the public.

The surge party page 10

General Murtala Mohammed: Scourge of corrupt administrators.

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Welcome in Damascus: Turmoil in Jerusalem



High spirits: The Rev Jesse Jackson and President Assad of Syria in Damascus yesterday.

Assad greets Jesse Jackson

Damascus (Reuters) — The Rev Jesse Jackson, the American black civil rights leader, met President Assad of Syria here yesterday and said afterwards he hoped that a decision on his attempt to free a captured US pilot was imminent.

He met President Assad for an hour and a half at a villa outside Damascus and later at his hotel said: "We are at a very sensitive stage of this appeal. We hope fully before this day is over we will have a final judgment. I intend to say nothing until the final decision has been made."

A Syrian presidential spokesman said the Syrian leadership would discuss "with concern" the matter of freeing Lieutenant Robert Goodman, who was shot down on a bombing raid over Syrian-held areas of Lebanon on December 4.

"Jackson asked President Assad on the humanitarian level for the release of the pilot", the spokesman said. "President Assad gave a promise to Jackson that the Syrian authorities will discuss this matter with concern."

Mr Jackson said the meeting had been "very good and warm" and that

President Assad "appeared to be in good health and in good spirits".

The Syrian leader has been recovering since November, officially from an appendix operation, though it is widely believed that he suffered a heart attack.

Mr Jackson, who is a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination this year, is the first American to meet President Assad since his illness. Even President Reagan's Middle East envoy, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, has not had a meeting with the Syrian leader since then.

Rail blasts claimed by Arab group

Tripoli, Lebanon (Reuters) — A message claiming that an "Armed Arab Struggle Organization" was responsible for two New Year's Eve bombings in southern France was issued to the press here yesterday.

Written in Arabic and French and addressed to the French people, it said: "We will not let only our children weep for the blood of the Baalbek martyrs" — an apparent reference to a French air raid in November on a pro-Iranian Shia Muslim guerrilla base at the Lebanese city of Baalbek. The note was handed to journalists by an unidentified man.

The "Armed Arab Struggle Organization" is a little known group believed to have made occasional claims to responsibility for previous bombings.

The bombs in France, which killed four people and injured more than 50, exploded within half an hour of each other, one in Marseilles railway station and another in a train which had left Marseilles for Paris.

Israel reopens Awali crossing

Awali Bridge, Lebanon (Reuters) — Long lines of vehicles and crowds of pedestrians began moving slowly through this Israeli checkpoint into southern Lebanon yesterday as Israeli troops reopened the crossing after a three-day shutdown.

At mid-morning, several hours after the bridge reopened, about a thousand pedestrians and a queue of lorries nearly a mile long were still waiting to cross.

The bridge, and two other Israeli-controlled crossings

points into southern Lebanon, have been closed since last Thursday evening. State-run Beirut radio said a second checkpoint at Birsir Bridge about 10 miles inland had also been reopened, there was no word on the third crossing point at Niba in the Chouf mountains.

At the Awali bridge, pedestrians waited for up to an hour to cross as Israeli soldiers and militiamen of their right-wing Lebanese ally, Major Saad Haddad, inspected the identity documents of all travellers.

HAIFA: Major Haddad remained in serious condition in an Israeli hospital here yesterday, suffering from exhaustion, a hospital spokesman said.

According to local media reports, he is suffering from cancer but hospital officials have refused to elaborate on his illness.

SIDON: An Israeli Army vehicle was blown up and set on fire yesterday in a village east of Sidon in the fourth anti-Israeli attack since the weekend (AFP reports).

Foreign Ministry officials strike

Israeli Foreign Ministry staff yesterday went on strike for more pay — with inflation predicted soon to top 250 per cent.

They want parity status, at least, with employees of the Mossad intelligence agency.

Widespread unrest in the country's large public sector has already spread to the Defence and Interior Ministries, Labour and Welfare, Transport and Agriculture, the Inland Revenue Department and the state-owned electricity supply indus-

try. About 40,000 workers are involved.

The Foreign Ministry staff yesterday barred non-employees from their Jerusalem office.

Diplomatic mail was not accepted or distributed and no diplomatic passports were issued. A spokesman said the sanctions would be toughened unless there was agreement in principle to their demands.

The public service action

comes at a time when the Government is considering drastically cutting public spending to reduce a £3.5bn balance of payments shortfall. Mr Cohen-Orad, the Finance Minister, said the savings were vital to avert economic disaster. He acknowledged his proposed measures will increase unemployment and erode earnings.

The Cabinet, which discussed the economic situation on Sunday, directed the minister to initiate negotiations immedi-

EEC and Efta lift final industrial trade barriers

Paris (NYT) — The last formal barriers to industrial free trade between 17 West European nations have disappeared.

The result is one free-trade area covering the 10 members of the European Economic Community and the seven members of the European Free Trade Association. The 17 countries together have a combined market of about 210 million consumers, which is about 25 per cent bigger than the United States domestic market.

The free trade area came into being on Sunday with the ending of an agreement first signed in 1972. That accord progressively eliminated all industrial trade barriers between the EEC and the seven Efta countries — Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland.

The tariffs and quotas that disappeared mainly affect trade in newsprint and other paper products. Now Scandinavian paper producers effectively have unrestricted access to the EEC. Most other industrial goods have moved freely between the EEC and the association members since 1980.

An immediate commercial problem concerns Canadian

newsprint sales to Europe. Newsprint users, particularly in Britain and West Germany, wish to maintain sizable Canadian newsprint imports to prevent the European market becoming dominated by Scandinavian producers.

Negotiations will open soon between the 17 countries and Canada to fix a quota for Canadian newsprint imports.

Officials say the fusing of Europe's two free-trade blocks creates other longer-term political and economy problems.

However, the two blocks remain distinct and with different goals. The EEC remains committed to complete economic integration as well as free trade. The association, which contains four neutral countries, is interested only in free trade and has no federalist ambitions.

The EEC countries, meanwhile have made only disappointing progress so far towards a single European industrial market.

Although they have a joint agricultural policy creating equitable competition between farmers and all member countries, this has become expensive to operate in Britain and West Germany, which pay most of its cost.

Dissident tells of Riviera offer

Paris (Reuters) — The Polish authorities offered Mr Adam Michnik, the imprisoned dissident, a Christmas "holiday" on the French Riviera to avoid having to bring him to trial, Mr Michnik said in a letter published here.

He implied the proposed holiday meant permanent emigration and said that he had refused because accepting would have amounted to "moral suicide". His letter, addressed to the Polish Interior Minister, was printed in *Liberation*.

In Warsaw, Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, has sent a confidential letter to General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader. Mrs Danuta Walesa said. She declined to discuss its contents.

Army major to be flogged

Karachi (Reuters) — A retired Pakistani Army major will be publicly flogged here today for raping his sister-in-law at gun point in 1980.

Ghulam Sabir Shah, aged 40, is to receive 10 lashes at a sports stadium for raping Ghazala Qureshi, a 22-year-old teacher.

Wet Leningrad

Moscow (Reuters) — The worst floods for many years have badly damaged large areas of Leningrad as the River Neva rose 8 ft above normal.

Italian blast

Portici (Reuters) — A passer-by was killed when a prison employee's car was blown up here in what appeared to be the first guerrilla action of the year in Italy. The attack could be linked with a recent hunger strike by Red Brigades prisoners in Sardinia.

Knights fall out

Sir Edmund Hillary has criticized the New Zealand Prime Minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, for stopping a party of hand-capped Japanese climbers scaling Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest peak. Sir Edmund said the Prime Minister's action was highly undesirable.

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Opec awaits decision on membership

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Confirmation that Nigeria will remain a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is being eagerly awaited by financial markets, the North Sea oil industry and by Opec itself.

The country's new leader has already said that Nigeria will continue to be a member and as a former Minister of Petroleum and leader of Nigeria's delegation to Opec meetings in the late 1970s he will be aware of the effect that a change in Nigeria's oil policy could have on an already fragile Opec price and production agreement.

The effect of Nigeria's withdrawal from Opec and entry into the world oil market without Opec restrictions would put considerable downward pressure on North Sea oil prices

and on sterling, which is adversely affected by a cut in the dollar-denominated price of North Sea production.

The announcement by Nigeria during the recent Opec ministerial meeting in Geneva that it would withdraw from membership — a new prospect the pound to be not granted — Although the withdrawal threat was dismissed within Opec as a Nigerian bargaining lever, it was taken more seriously by the North Sea industry.

Nigeria and North Sea crude oils are directly comparable in quality and Nigeria has already said that any price cut by Britain would be more than met. This warning was an important factor in the decision of the British National Oil

Corporation — the state-run oil trading company — to resist customer pressure for a price cut in the week before Christmas.

Opec will also hope that Nigeria will stick to the present price and production quotas it endorsed on December 8 in Geneva.

During the last year Nigeria regularly produced 200,000 barrels of oil a day above its Opec agreed quota of 1.3 million bpd (North Sea production is now running at 2.4 million bpd). This was explained by a need to increase foreign currency earnings, and by some of the most cynical Opec analysts as a way for the previous regime to earn cash to reward certain influential people who had helped in the election campaign.

The new federal military Government had decreed the suspension of the 1979 civilian constitution and ordering federal and state officials to vacate their offices and report immediately to police stations.

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Delhi ready to ban Granada TV documentary

From Our Own Correspondent Delhi

A documentary film made by Granada television will be banned in India unless some changes are made, according to Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Foreign Minister. The film tells the story of Subhash Chandra Bose, known throughout India as Netaji — honoured leader.

In a letter to a West Bengal MP, the Foreign Minister says the Government has decided to forbid the screening in India unless corrections are made to "some objectionable features and offending passages."

The MP, Professor S. Battacharya, raised the issue in the Upper House, the Rajya Sabha, urging the Government to protest.

German threat to tax motorway drivers

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

West Germany is threatening to introduce charges on its extensive motorway network if neighbouring countries do not agree within the next six months to lower or drop tolls on their motorways.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Transport said yesterday that the minister fully understood the anger of ordinary people and transport companies that they had to pay for the use of motorways in France and Italy whereas foreigners were able to use German roads free.

The ministry said discussions were going on within the framework of the European Community to try to reduce this inequality. Germany had already persuaded Austria to cut tolls for German transport

Fatal start to the new year

Bogotá (Reuters and AP) —

More than 150 people were killed and 200 injured in attacks, brawls and traffic accidents in Colombia during the new year festivities, police said.

The deaths included 48 people killed in Medellin and 14 murdered in Bogotá on Sunday alone.

In Castro, Brazil, four people were killed and 15 were missing after more than 60 people plunged 35 ft into the Iapo River when a suspension cable and foundation post snapped on a wooden footbridge.

In Milan, a 21-year-old policeman, Signor Giovanni Bottaro, was in critical condition after accidentally shooting himself in the stomach as he drew out his pistol to fire into the air.

Hunger strike

Berlin (Reuters) — Two jailed East German women anti-nuclear campaigners have gone on hunger strike to protest against the possibility of being expelled to the West, friends in East Berlin said. They are Baerbel Bohley, aged 39, and Ulrike Poppe, aged 30.

Polisario tally

Paris (Reuters) — The Polisario Front said its forces had killed 75 Moroccan soldiers and destroyed 23 vehicles in heavy fighting in the Western Sahara. The front claims to have killed 329 Moroccan and destroyed 123 vehicles over the past four days.

Polish tragedy

Warsaw (AFP) — Fire swept through part of a sugar refinery near Opole, south-west Poland on New Year's Day killing four people who were sleeping. Twelve others were rescued.

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YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE SHOWS

As *The Far Pavilions* opens a new mini-series on television tonight, Ivor Davis reports on the invention of a new weapon in the American ratings war. Below, David Hewson looks at a rival British attempt to outgun Hollywood

Pulling in the crowds once nightly

Hollywood

When *The Thornbirds* was aired on American TV, audiences on three of the four successive nights topped the 45 million mark, putting the mini-series among the top ten most watched TV programmes in United States history.

When the 18 hour series *Winds of War* - at \$45m one of the costliest films ever made - was aired in February last year, more than 50 million viewers a night followed the adventures of Captain Victor "Pug" Henry (played by Robert Mitchum) in the Second World War.

There was joy in the executive suites of NBC and ABC as the awesome figures came in. For *Winds of War*, ABC charged \$350,000 per advertising minute, and willing customers such as the Ford Motor Company, Miller Brewing and IBM enabled the network to rake in \$32m from commercial breaks.

Not surprisingly, then, mini-series have become regular fare on television screens here. A decade or more ago Hollywood would probably have turned *Winds of War* or *Thornbirds* into three-hour big screen epics. In fact there was serious talk of making Colleen McCullough's best-selling novel about Australia into a movie with Robert Redford and Jane Fonda in the roles eventually played on television by Richard Chamberlain and Rachel Ward.

The mini-series - usually made up for six 90-minute episodes played night after night as a ratings blitzkrieg in the United States, but week-by-week in Britain - is cheaper than its cinematic equivalent, using less costly television directors and actors who specialize in the more humble demands of the small screen.

Audiences are large and more predictable than those for a film. That means that there are no huge rewards like the unexpectedly vast returns of cinema pictures like *Star Wars* - but then there are no financial disasters like *Heaven's Gate*, either. And for less

than the cost of one 90- to 120-minute film, you can fill up to 12 hours (if you take in advertising time) of peak time with a tailor-made product.

The networks have turned the mini-series into a popular art form. They are preceded by expensive publicity campaigns and as the series unfolds they gather, it is hoped, rolling audiences who become hooked.

The real pacemaker of the mini-series in the US was *Roots*, 1977, based on Alex Haley's best-selling book. It was followed by *Centennial*, based on James Michener's novel, which didn't do as well as *Roots*. *Holocaust*, an account of what happened to the Jews in the Second World War, was a big hit, as were *Roots*, *The Next Generation*, *The Winds of War* and *Thornbirds*.

Thornbirds producer Stan Margulies, who along with documentary filmmaker David Wolper produced *Roots*, credits British shows such as the *Forsythe Saga* and *Upstairs, Downstairs* as the forerunners of the mini-series.

Margulies, a former newspaper reporter and film publicist, points out that "the success of the mini-series is even more important to American TV because commercial TV is losing part of its audience to cable. And the series is one way to get them back."

Before *Roots*, audiences had their appetites whetted by classy British imports such as *Brideshead Revisited*. But it was the success of *Roots*, seen by millions for six nights running, that convinced the networks that there were huge profits to be made.

"The night *Roots* first went on the air we all spent the entire day calling each other to ask 'do you think anyone will watch it?' Nobody really anticipated what would happen," said Margulies.

Everyone tried to jump onto the bandwagon. As always happens, TV never fails to try and kill the bird that lays the golden eggs. Shows that should never have become mini-series were made and it almost killed the genre



Levar Burton as Kunta Kinte in *Roots* and, right, Sneha Gupta as Shashila preparing for suttee in *The Far Pavilions*

entirely. Too many people said, "God, I love this story, it's a three-hour movie and we can blow it up a little and make it a mini-series."

Mini-series began to draw poor ratings, but the success of *Shogun*, based on the James Clavell novel, revived the genre.

Margulies said: "My criterion for a winning series is one that has a historical background with enough sweep and substance to carry it for several nights."

With prices soaring for commercials, it is not surprising that each network has a big series on the way for later this year.

Wolper and Margulies have just completed a \$9m new series called *Lyric Warriors*, which will run for five hours and is based on the book *Wanted* by Ruth Beebe Hill, and is described as an Indian *Roots*. It has a cast of unknowns. Later this year

Margulies plans to go to Egypt to shoot the saga of Pharaoh Akhenaten who was married to Nefertiti, with a script by Carmen Culver who adapted *The Thornbirds* for TV.

Another project, *One Ten Shanghai Road* is set in China during the Mao revolution and will run for six hours.

American viewers will also get the chance to choose from biblical, race and historical series in the months to come. *AD* has been shooting in the Middle East for more than a year while *George Washington* offers a look at early America. It stars Barry Bostwick, Jacqueline Smith, Patty Duke, Richard Kiley and Robert Stack, and includes 186 speaking parts.

Shirley Conran's novel *Lace* will be a mini-series as will Robert Louis Stevenson's *Master of Ballantrae* with Michael York. *Master of the Game*, with Dyan Cannon, Ian Charleson and Harry Hamlin will cover "one hundred

years, and three continents," and was shot in Kenya, London, Nice and New York.

The First Olympics - in this Olympic year - features Angela Lansbury and David Ogden Stiers, late of *M*A*S*H*. *Celebrity* is taken from Tommy Thompson's novel.

Lies says, "should take viewers to places they wish they could go themselves, and bring the exotic into the living room. That's always one of the great attractions of the movies. They tried to do it with *Princess Daisy* (based on the Judith Krantz best-seller) but it didn't work because they spent most of the money on the sets and the locations. It looked beautiful. But the first requirement is that the characters and personal stories be magnetic and fascinating. Audiences don't want travelogues or home movies - they're bored by that on TV."

Big names, historical settings and transatlantic appeal

Britain's latest mini-series, *The Far Pavilions*, begins a three-night run on Channel 4 tonight and could well set the shape of television drama for the future. The British have dabbled with the genre before: Central TV made *Kennedy*, and Granada is about to deliver *The Jewel in the Crown*, based on Paul Scott's Raj Quartet. But *The Far Pavilions*, from M. M. Kaye's book of Victorian India, goes much further than these in casting aside literary pretensions and relying on Hollywood razzamatazz, pure and simple.

When it makes its American debut on Home Box Office in the spring, it will be the first British-made mini-series to have penetrated the lucrative United States cable network. For its maker, the independent company Goldcrest, it will probably mean a small profit for the first time since it took the plunge into large scale production. And for anyone who thought that television drama could survive unscathed when the bonds of broadcasting dogma are shattered by the twin drive of technology and a

government unmoved by past traditions of Reithian ideas, it contains an ominous message: the formula has arrived.

That formula, in the frank words of Mike Wooller, Goldcrest's managing director of television, consists of big stars, glamorous, preferable historical settings, and transatlantic appeal.

"We would find it hard to sell *The Jewel in the Crown* in America," says Wooller. "If we can't sell in America, we can't get a return. We have to work for the mass market."

So, in *The Far Pavilions*, the leading role of Anjali, an Indian princess, goes to Amy Irving, a familiar star in America and one-time girlfriend of Steven Spielberg. The casting, which is somewhat bizarre, since Miss Irving in heavy Indian makeup looks like a Mary Quant cast-off from 1968, hung heavily on financial considerations. The result may jar on British eyes, but the Americans are unconcerned. Jane Deknatel, HBO's vice-president, is ecstatic about *The Far Pavilions*. "It is going to be a massive hit. Although

this is the most expensive film we have bought we are sure this is the kind of film our viewers want to see," she says.

Goldcrest's discovery that transatlantic pop drama is the mother-lode of television means that the company itself looks nothing like a heavyweight as it did two years ago when it first announced its intention to become Britain's largest television programme company independent of the BBC and ITV. Its work for Channel 4 has produced one popular success, *The Wine Programme*, but that is likely to come to an end. Channel 4 wants the company to produce another series, but, according to Wooller, the effort would hardly be justified. The money from a British showing is low on the understanding that Goldcrest could make a profit from sales abroad. They have failed to materialize.

"Janis and the witty script make the programme for Channel 4 but the programme for selling in America, militate against it selling in America, where no one knows her," says Wooller with a shrug. "I think it highly unlikely we will do another series."

Goldcrest's prestige project of filming 50 Shakespeare sonnets has ground to a halt. Some 15 of the sonnets, using artists like Claire Bloom and Ben Kingsley, are completed and will be seen on Channel 4, but foreign buyers have found the project too upmarket for their tastes.

"There is no doubt at all that my emphasis is going to move into the drama mini-series area and made for television movies for HBO. It doesn't disappoint me as long as we can go on making good upmarket material as well."

At present, that means that, in addition to looking at mini-series on a Monte Carlo casino and Frederick Forsyth's *The Devil's Alternative*, Goldcrest is also thinking about producing a version of Waugh's *Scoop*. But documentaries and serious drama are going to be a small part of its operations, and it has shelved for good any ideas it had about starting a 24-hour news service.

The lessons of Goldcrest's rapid discovery of where its future lies in

television are not simply financial ones. Britain has only recently woken up to the fact that, through cable, satellite, home video and the arrival of Channel 4, a vast explosion in the production of television material (though, not necessarily, its consumption) is now taking place. It seemed logical to believe that a proliferation of media would lead to greater diversity in product.

What is happening in television drama would seem to shatter this myth. The present obsession with ratings has led the BBC to schedule another expensive, glamorous and pop mini-series, *Thornbirds*, in January in the hope of winning back some of the audience it lost in the autumn. Should that and *The Far Pavilions* gain large audiences, and *The Jewel in the Crown* lower ratings, will that make Granada's more literary product a failure? And if it does, will not Granada, when it has recovered from the calamity, be tempted to turn to the formula for its next venture into drama?

Yesterday's hair today

Hair analysis is currently the rage (see, for example, *The Times* Science Report for December 6), and it is good to see Egyptology among the pioneers. In 1898 was found the second cache of royal mummies, who had been hidden for safety 3,000 years earlier in a tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Most of the mummies were suitably labelled, but one in particular lurked anonymously. By her elaborate coiffure and her regal bearing, she was obviously not a person to be trifled with, and was immediately dubbed "the Elder Lady". Less respectfully, she was published as Cairo 61070. Guesses were made as to her identity, but it was left to a



The mummy found in the tomb of Amenhotep II

radiological team from the University of Michigan to "make her name live" once more. Lateral head radiograms and cluster analysis techniques showed that her facial bones bore a strong resemblance to the formidable Queen Tye.

The latter, as a young girl from a provincial city, captivated an emperor, and in turn became the mother of Akhenaten. She was even a political figure in her own right. The final clue to this tempting equation was available in the tomb of Tutankhamun, where a small wooden box contained a lock of hair from Queen Tye, his grandmother, ion etching and electron microprobe analysis matched this hair with those on the head of Cairo 61070. One wonders whether, if hair analysis can be used on Egyptian queens, it could be used in criminal trials, to prevent innocent people from spending six years of their lives in prison (cf. *Times*, December 7, p. 3).

Inside Akhenaten

Concerning Akhenaten, the "heretic" Pharaoh who abolished Egyptian religion at an unpopular stroke and substituted a sole god, sublime in conception by rather easily confounded with Akhenaten himself, speculation continues, and is likely to do so in the absence of his certainly "the first individual in history"; but was he a saintly forerunner of Moses, or was he more like the unbalanced *ghazim*. His immediate successors served to the criminal theory, and turned his large open-air temples into convenient building material.

FINDINGS

A series on research Egyptology

Of the many thousands of such blocks now being recovered by a joint Canadian and Egyptian team, one in particular has recently attracted attention. It contains part of an address by the young reformer, still known by his orthodox name of



Part of a limestone stela of Akhenaten

Amenophis IV. It is fragmentary, but it refers to the unity of worshipping perishable images, and the transcendent reality of a solar god, who must be the new deity who was shortly to be declared unique. At last a new glimpse into the mind of the man who was to describe Egyptian religion as the "great evil".

New-found again

There was once a papyrus owned by Lord Amherst of Hackney. During the Second World War it disappeared, and has accidentally been rediscovered by Dutch scholars in the Pierpoint Morgan Library in New York. Its 22 columns are written in Egyptian shorthand, but the underlying language turns out to be Aramaic, the *Lingua franca* of the Near East.

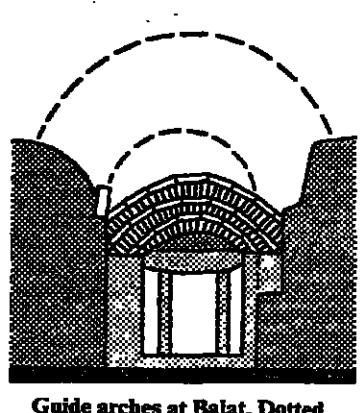
The whole text seems to be a religious liturgy, with a strong Babylonian flavour and containing several passages distinctly reminiscent of the Hebrew Psalms. Like the Dead Sea Scrolls, the literature on this will run and run. Ancient Egypt, like us, must have had its astralms, and its immigrant gurus.

Arch find

The palm for most remarkable recent discovery in Egypt should go to the French, for their work at Balat in Dakkiah oasis, some 200 miles west of the Nile valley. There they have discovered an entire Egyptian colony, dating from the end of the Old Kingdom (c. 2350-2200 BC) with mud-brick houses, massive ramparts, and govern-

mental buildings, objects of domestic or industrial life, and the tombs of its governors, buried with artefacts of a quality surprising in such a provincial place. Especially remarkable was the use of the brick vault in architecture, and the discovery of Egyptian archives on clay tablets, a practice normally reserved for benighted peoples such as Babylonians and Mycenaeans.

Perhaps the *via de province* did not stretch to sheets of papyrus for the Balatans of four thousand years ago?



Guide arches at Balat. Dotted lines show the original building

Urchin temple

Evidence has been growing that the Ancient Egyptians were the first Egyptologists. It has been known for some time that they restored ancient monuments and piously copied inscriptions; even their tourist graffiti are reverent. (The

motives, however, of the lone intellectual who dedicated a fossil sea-urchin, found in the desert, in a temple of the sun god, remain obscure. The urchin is now in the Egyptian Museum, Turin). But the British Museum team excavating at Hermopolis in Middle Egypt have found a Roman processional way upon which ancient plinths and statue bases, by that time already 15 centuries old, had been carefully placed. One would have thought the BM boys need not have gone to Egypt to find Museum Street; but what they are really doing is rescuing an ancient city.

Dead letters

The Egypt Exploration Society continues its work at Qasr Ibrim, a fortified rock in the Nile some 35 miles north of the Sudanese frontier. It was garrisoned by the Pharaohs, and became part of the southern boundary of the Roman empire. Later it became Nubian bishopric and was occupied by pipe-smoking mercenaries from Bosnia until AD 1879. It alone has survived the flooding of Lake Nasser. Finds include temples, a podium, a vasilica, the strategic deterrent of a Roman catapult, two of the missing poems of the Roman governor-poet Gallus, letters from two ladies asking for oracles, exercises in Merotic (an ancient Sudanese language, readable but not understood), diplomatic correspondence from a Nubian princeling in Evelyn Waugh type Greek, textiles, Bosnian jottings, and a dead bishop with his letters testimonial. They could be in for some long seasons.

J. D. Ray

moreover... Miles Kington

Having the last word

Christmas would not be Christmas without the BBC managing to trip over its own feet at least once. Last year they managed it by repeating a vintage Maigret episode in which Maigret was not even involved. This year they succumbed to a common BBC ailment: an excess of good taste. Alan Melville, the broadcaster, died last week. His death, by a curious coincidence, occurred the day before Radio 4 was due to repeat an edition of *Quotie, Unquote* on which Alan Melville talked about death. He always, he said, looked at *The Times* every day to see if his obituary was in it. One day it had been in it. Luckily, it turned out to be the obituary of a completely different Alan Melville, a cricketer.

The idea of broadcasting Alan Melville talking about *The Times* obituaries on the very day his real obituary was due to appear proved to much for the poor old BBC, so they took the programme off, and replaced it. The BBC, in other words, had a fit of trembling cowardice, and lost a golden opportunity to take advantage of its own good luck. When a star dies, the BBC's normal reaction is to cobble together a rush "tribute", which more often than not seems to be collected droppings from the Michael Parkinson show. In Alan Melville's case, things were very different. A programme was going out featuring Melville himself. Not only that, but it featured him talking in his own lighthearted manner about facing death.

Handed this gift on a plate, the BBC did what you might expect it to do: it ordered the gift and the plate to be locked away, where nobody could see them.

Now, we all know that death is a taboo subject. It is, in other words, something so delicate and sensitive that we talk about it all the time. The BBC talks about it all the time, especially on the news. The news on television is a licensed form of video nasty. It is hard to get on to TV news unless you have just killed someone, just been killed, or just installed a weapon capable of a lot of newsworthy killing. But if you have ventured to make a joke or two about your own obituary, and then have the bad taste to die, be sure the BBC will not let you be heard joking about it.

Broadcasters who intend to die at some time in the future and who do not want to get into the trembling hands of the BBC Tribute Department, should perhaps get in touch with the German video-maker who offers people the chance to put their last will and testament on video tape. You can, apparently, be filmed in any situation you like, such as in a businesslike pose at a desk with a telephone, though I know that in my case this would lead to endless difficulties....

Me: (to camera) "This is the last will and testament of Miles Kington. No part of this will and testament may be reproduced without permission from me. Or from whoever's handling that sort of thing. Right, here we go then. (The phone rings). I'm sorry, we'll be back with the will in a moment. Hello? Oh, hello, it's you. Yes, I am busy. Actually, I'm just recording my will, but you won't get anything if you don't ring off now."

Recording a voice on video strikes me as rather banal, actually, rather like registering your fingerprints and calling it art, but making your own television tribute programme - now, that might be useful. Picture the scene at the BBC when news of your death comes through....

"Apparently old Simon has snuffed it."

"Good Lord. How unexpected. He'd only been very ill for five years."

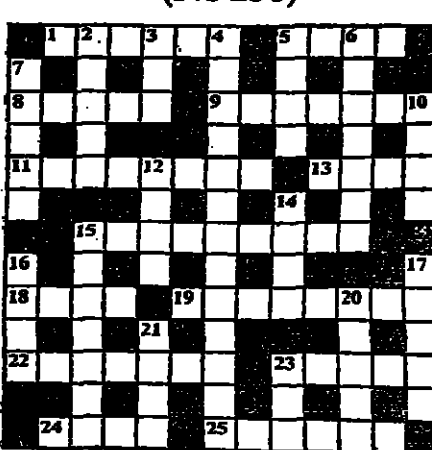
"Well, the point is, should we do a tribute to him tonight? Bit of Parkinson, bit of old news footage, that sort of thing?"

"Hold on - didn't he send a tribute half-hour about five years ago? Let's put that out instead. Apparently it was free, and God knows, we need the money."

"Shouldn't we have a look at it first? The old Maigret problem you know."

"Simon is hardly likely to make a tribute to himself without featuring himself all the way through. Let's start it on the television tonight, and just hope he didn't have the bad taste to mention his own death."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 238)



- ACROSS
1 Diocesan leader (6)
5 Rembrandt (4)
8 Scaring (5)
9 Stalemate (7)
11 Indecent (8)
13 Unoccupied (4)
15 Synonym for (9)
18 Firearm hammer (4)
19 Easy job (8)
22 Studying (7)
23 Cured pork (5)
24 Enticement (4)
25 Over there (6)
- DOWN
2 Dialect (5)
3 Dried grass (3)
4 Most carefully (13)
6 Inferior (4)
7 Apart from (7)
10 Fetter (5)
12 Synonym for (9)
14 Factual (4)
15 Rapid composition (7)
16 Crag formation (4)
17 Tiny (5)
20 Mother's brother (5)
21 River deposit (4)
23 Litter basket (3)

SOLUTION TO No 237
ACROSS: 1 Tour de force 9 Epitome 10 Forge
11 RAF 13 Unit 16 Maxi 17 Astory 18 Rat
20 Yell 21 Ablaze 22 Subs 23 Skit 25 L&L
28 Entry 29 Oregano 30 Prehistoric
DOWN: 2 Orbis 3 Roof 4 Ever 5 Off 6 Carcase
7 Refurbished 8 Legislation 12 Abroad 14 Tail
15 Stable 19 Arbitrator 20 Yes 24 Kiaki 25 Lych
26 Goes 27 Zero

هكذا من الأصل

FASHION ANNIVERSARY

After 50 years in fashion, HARDY AMIES is flattered to

The making of the style

HARDY AMIES

1934-1984

"I have done my best", says Hardy Amies. "I keep a lot of ladies happy". Mr Amies has been in fashion for exactly 50 years. His contribution to fashion history, he thinks, was "to help to create the British suit, the London suit, when it was a fashionable commodity".

He remembers with shutter speed precision the first suit of his that appeared in *Vogue*, photographed by Cecil Beaton. "It was Cumberland tweed, the jacket in large check, a purple background with flecks of cerise and green. The skirt was flared; it had a hip-length jacket and a rather modern puffed top to the sleeve. You could put it on the market today. What strikes me about fashion is how little things change."

Hardy Amies's design empire now includes mass-market menswear lines throughout North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. He designs workwear, lingerie, cosmetics and home furnishings, as well as two couture and ready-to-wear collections a year and a newly launched wholesale range.

The consistent theme that unites these various collections is their quality of "Englishness". He defines that as "usually something to do with the country. Clothes shouldn't look totally out of place in the country. Even a mum's wedding outfit must be acceptable for a country church."

He has a country home in the Cotswolds where his pride and joy are the tennis court (he plays every day at the age of 74) and his garden. "I like individual flowers which one can appreciate, rather than flowers en masse," he says. "I am anti herbaceous borders."

His early background, he admits cheerfully, was not country or country, but suburban. His father worked in the planning department of the old LCC, his mother in one of the last of the court dressmaking houses. That at least was a suitable family setting for his role as number one couturier to the Queen.

"And the Queen is the number one woman in the world," he says. "Of course I have profited from the connection in that it has given me an aura of respectability. I was especially honoured to have been given the CVO which is a private honour. But I could not consider myself as a friend. The Queen is a professional woman and seeing me is like a visit from her doctor or her hairdresser. After 30 years, she still calls me 'Mr Amies'."

Others suggest that there is a special relationship between the pukka, elegant, entertaining dressmaker and his most special client. She has read the new autobiography that he brings out this spring ("I am shocked that they bothered her with it," he says, sounding very pleased indeed).

The criticism of the Queen's wardrobe (only partly by Amies) on last year's West Coast tour still rankles. He does not, he says with dignity, dress the Queen. She is the arbiter and judge of an outfit to suit the occasion. If the public judges her unfairly, it is because opinion is based entirely on photographs rather than the reality of an outfit in flesh and movement. He suggests in the most discreet way that more attention



Hardy Amies in his Kensington home last week: "I am a realist about fashion." Photograph

might perhaps be paid by the Palace to the modern age of communications. "Television," he says, "is simply a word that has never been mentioned." Around his London flat are the traditional grand royal poses in signed photographs.

Amies himself is acutely aware of the changing world. "In the past," he says, "a sexy woman was one who lay on a sofa like an odalisque, smoking a cigarette. Now she is an athletic woman, a swimming star, and she certainly doesn't smoke." I witnessed a nice understanding of changing modes. Hardy Amies had once told me that he reinvented the "sexy suit" for men. He now refers to it (in 1980s parlance) as his "athletic suit". He is wearing it; jacket tailored like a blazer (not like those 1970s suits with

jackets with nipped-in waists and little skirts").

He is now involved more closely with the menswear collections, especially for his overseas licences than with women's wear, which is under the control of Ken Flesswood, design director for 10 years and one of the half-dozen people he counts among his close friends. Amies attributes his ability to organize his Savile Row-based empire to his army background (he served in the Second World War in the Intelligence Corps). He is straightforward about his plans for the succession. In July, when he will be 75, he plans to stay in the Cotswolds for the major part of the week and leave still more to Ken. But he talks of the year 2001 when he will be 91. In February he will spend

another working month in New York where his faithful manservant James serves up shepherd's pie in Amies's Manhattan apartment.

His London home is now relatively small Kensington flat, filled with oak furniture polished to waxen gloss. He enjoys social life, just as he has always enjoyed "dining with the best people. Not the smartest people, but the well-dressed, bright people. I am flattered and amused that I am still asked out so much when I have almost given up entertaining."

Hardy Amies's fashion admiration is for Molyneux. "He was one of my gods. He played a world role and he had marvellous taste that showed up so well against the sometimes doubtful taste of the French."

Although Amies was famous in the

MARKS & SPENCER

1884-1984



Marks and Spencer then and now. From penny bazaar to casual wear.

Next week, Marks and Spencer holds the first fashion show of its centenary year - a show in which sportswear makes all the running.

"Don't ask the price - it's a penny" was the slogan on which Michael Marks set up his market stall in Leeds in 1884. You don't ask how much M & S are spending on centenary celebrations, because, true to their image as a High Street retailer with heart, they are giving money to the people. To commemorate their hundred years of trading, the group has allocated £3.5m to help local community projects. The money has been divided between the 262 stores, with staff selecting worthwhile projects from £5,000 to £25,000.

The fashion policy is no longer based entirely on price. In fact, some of Marks and Spencers' runaway successes have been in "luxury" areas like leather and suede, when the first garments went into selected stores on trial. The latest leather line to be tried out - and to walk out - has been leather skirts, which were the surprise success of last season.

For spring, leisure wear is the

growth area with jogging suits and the sports look carried through into regular fashion. Active sports wear, introduced as a few tennis try-outs last summer, is a big M & S story for 1984. Fabrics like towelling, and brushed-back cottons all emphasize the sporty theme, with workwear and coordinated casuals important for both sexes.

Marks have also brought changing fashions to the household with bed linen, bathroom and kitchen accessories and recently lights.

The facts and figures always make astounding reading: 20 per cent of everything we wear (and a quarter of the population's undies) come from M & S. The flagship store at Marble Arch sells annually into the *Guinness Book of Records* as taking more money per square foot than any other retailer in the world.

My favourite statistics show that Norway sells enough St Michael peanuts to build twice the height of Mount Everest and that Iceland spends £2 per head of its population with M & S. I wonder if they sell the eskimos ice cream?

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The things they say about Jean Muir, first lady of British fashions.

Miss Muir CBE

Jean Muir received a CBE for services to industry in the New Year Honours. The award recognizes her messianic work with fashion students and her contribution to the industry through the Royal Society of Arts, as well as her undisputed claim as Britain's foremost fashion designer. The Jean Muir exhibition in 1980 included this selection of tributes:

□ "At the root of Jean Muir's creative power lies a sound structural sense, an alert awareness and determined discipline. First comes an understanding of the human body, of its gravity and balance. BRIDGET RILEY.

□ "All her clothes are variations on a single theme stemming from an idiosyncratic mastery of cut and materials that create a form of dress that is immediately recognizable and virtually dateless. Attention to detail and understatement are essential ingredients of her look. As a result her art is like a single unending pun. FUGUE. SIR ROY STRONG

□ "Jean Muir is distinguished by her altruistic attitude to clothes: she is confessedly interested in making clothes for other people but not for herself. As a result, an extraordinarily wide range of physical types - in fact the whole gamut of the female race - can wear her clothes, something which does not always apply to the dresses of other more 'opinionated' designers. LADY ANTONIA FRASER

□ "I believe that craft in its true sense is totally necessary, not only in mine but in all industries. It is to me an unarguable empirical fact not only from the aesthetic point of view, but also because in economically difficult times the products which have an innate feeling of craft and quality are the ones that suffer least. FROM A 1962 LECTURE GIVEN BY MISS MUIR.



David Garretson

JAEGER

1884-1984



Anthony Crickmay

Not-so-liberated lady from the Jaeger calendar.

The tightly-laced stays in Jaeger's centenary calendar are surely photographed with tongue in cheek. For "Dr Gustav Jaeger's Sanitary Woollen System" was designed to let the skin breathe through simple clothes made entirely from animal hair.

Oscar Wilde's unlikely endorsement of this sensible clothing regime brought it to public notice in Britain in 1884. Its most fervent disciple was a Victorian accountant Lewis Tomalin who made a bonfire of all the family bed linen and cotton undies and set up in Jaeger's theories.

The Jaeger calendar - on sale now in selected stores - is an imaginative reconstruction in pictures of Jaeger's first hundred years. Its cover features the old curiosity shop stacked with worthy woolsens.

Inside, leading fashion photographers take pictures that represent the Jaeger image over the span of the century. The appeal of the Jaeger health cult to the aesthetic movement is elegantly expressed in Norman Parkinson's photograph of an art nouveau interior complete with William Morris furnishings. (Coincidentally William Morris has his own one hundred and fiftieth anniversary in 1984.) The pure camel hair dressing gown that the

nineties lady wears in Parkinson's picture makes Dr Jaeger's search for animal fibres that took him from camels in the Syrian desert to vicunas in the Andes.

Anthony Crickmay's provocative Edwardian picture (above) is followed by John Swannell's poetic evocation of a First World War parting. Swannell also photographs the crisp striped sweater that brings the Jaeger fashion image right up to 1984.

In between come the high fashion years, and especially the magnificent Jaeger coats, photographed on nuns' hallowed ground at the Round Pond in Kensington in the 1920s or with a bobby on the beat by Tony McGee for the 1930s. Norman Parkinson, four dalmatians and a pure white wool suit, usher in the 1950s.

As Hardy Amies says elsewhere on this page, it is surprising to see how little the great fashion classics of the twentieth century have changed. Even our own preoccupations with health and fitness, with natural fibres and practical clothing seem almost in tune with the enthusiasts of a century ago.

I do not know what the solemn professor of zoology and his disciples would make of the Jaeger calendar. But I think they would approve of the clothes.



Krizia's spotty dogs in

Since the Italians do everything with style, Mariuccia Mandelli will be celebrating Krizia's thirtieth birthday not just with grand party, but also by opening her newly restored \$6m palazzo in Milan.

Although Krizia set up business 30 years ago, the anniversary should perhaps be of 1968, when Mariuccia started using the distinctive, witty and technically dazzling animal motifs in the knitwear collection. The animals, worked in complex tapestry of stitches in intarsia, were at first relatively domestic: sheep, butterflies, a cat, a dragonfly. With each season, they seem to get more wild and wonderful with a tiger prowling through jungle greenery across the chest or leopard paw marks staining white angora.

Sometimes the animals seem uncomfortably savage - like the panther snarling, shoulder to shoulder with a tusked rhinoceros or a snake pitting its poison against a crocodile.

Behind the Krizia label, and especially behind the animal markings, is absolute mastery of the knitting machines and what Mariuccia Mandelli describes as the "golden hands" of her Italian workers.

The wild animals, she says, both fascinate and repel her. They also threaten to take over her collection which sells in

THE TIMES DIARY

On home ground

Gwyn Morgan's first task when he became the EEC representative in Turkey last spring was to find new offices for his staff. After a long search, he found suitable premises in Kennedy Street, Ankara, and had them decorated. The day before he was due to move in, Morgan was visited by Turgut Ozal, leader of the Motherland Party, who told him that political parties were about to become legal and his party would require the offices. Morgan demurred. Ozal became more insistent. Morgan reported the situation to his Brussels headquarters. EEC chiefs in Brussels called in the Turkish ambassador. This was to no avail and Ozal moved in. Recently, Ozal, now Prime Minister, received Morgan at his party headquarters. "How do you like my offices?" he asked. Morgan replied: "Mr Prime Minister, since it should have been my living-room I like it very much indeed."

Wax and wane

Should your home need toning down rather than livening up, you might consider buying the very downbeat item which has won a Johnson Wax award for furniture design. It is a low table with laminate finish "based on colours and textures found in decaying industrial areas".

GA group called "1984 No" has petitioned the Swiss Government to remember the current year "Year One". The group felt that by doing so we would have a better chance of avoiding Orwellian prophecies.

Not quite classic

Cold chicken Veronique really must be a favourite with the Prime Minister since it is the recipe she supplies to any organization compiling a cookbook for charity. Its latest appearance is on behalf of the Save the Children Fund; before that it turned up in the *Westbourne Parish Cookbook* in aid of a local church. However, the Prime Minister's version cannot really be called Veronique, since it omits an ingredient given in every classic cookbook for this dish of cold chicken masked in a creamy sauce - peeled and de seeded grapes. The next time 10 Downing Street hands out the recipe it should perhaps be called Chicken Margaret.

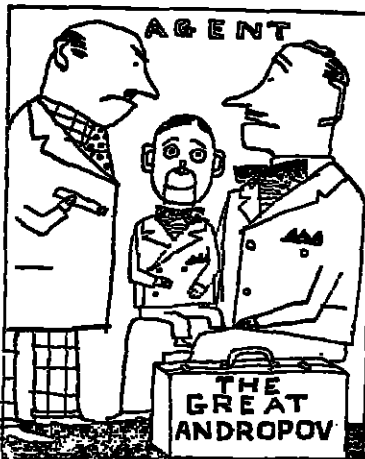
Acid test

Wissam Boustany, a 22-year-old flautist who was born in Lebanon, makes his London recital debut at the Wigmore Hall next Monday. This is in spite of the fact that he failed his music A-level. He blames this early failure on a bad memory - "I just couldn't remember things like theory, harmony, and history. I regret not passing, but later I found as a performer that it wasn't important."

Rochdale diet

Cyril Smith is unperturbed by the plans of Charles Irving, chairman of the House of Commons catering committee, to cut MPs on a slimmed-down menu. As long as Andrew Clough, a fellow citizen of Rochdale, remains in the kitchen, Mr Smith thinks that his favourite dishes such as cabinet pudding will still be on offer alongside Irving-inspired fruit salads.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's new. The dummy keeps his lips closed and I do the talking."

Poles apart

The manoeuvres listed on the present driving test application form which an L-driver could theoretically be asked to carry out include "Turn right-hand and left-hand corners without dewatering". This puzzling instruction was explained by the Department of Transport, it applies to trams, for which very few people now require licences to drive.

Instant credit

Queuing up to return unsuitable Christmas gifts at Marks & Spencer, one customer started to add up the benefit of it, he said, since he often found himself short of money on a Saturday, he would buy something in the shop and pay for it by cheque. A few minutes later, he would return it and get his refund in cash. He found these banking facilities most convenient.

PHS

David Williams on the coup that cut short Nigeria's anti-corruption drive

Shagari, the purger purged



Shehu Shagari's modest achievements, but none of his rivals could point to a better record

In January 1982, President Shehu Shagari made a speech in which he denounced the materialism and corruption in Nigeria in terms which raised expectations that his administration was to be purged. Finally, however, there was only a minor reshuffle which earned from a newspaper well disposed towards the government the sardonic description "Night of the short knives".

Whatever the President then intended, and whatever party pressures stood in his way, the extent of the purge which he carried out after last year's general election exceeded expectations. Only eight ministers survived, and only two of the special advisers who played so important a role in Nigeria's presidential system. Civil Service department heads were reshuffled and the President retained in the key post of Secretary to the Government.

Whatever the President then intended, and whatever party pressures stood in his way, the extent of the purge which he carried out after last year's general election exceeded expectations. Only eight ministers survived, and only two of the special advisers who played so important a role in Nigeria's presidential system. Civil Service department heads were reshuffled and the President retained in the key post of Secretary to the Government.

He won most votes among the five presidential candidates, but

only a third of the total, and that on a low poll. His election was challenged in the courts, which were to occupy the judiciary over the next four years. The NPN held only about a third of the seats in each house of the National Assembly and controlled only seven of the 19 states. The completed constitution was untried. The administration, both federal and state, was weak: the public utilities were in disarray.

But the high price of oil provided adequate reserves to cushion mismanagement, to support political extravagance, and to avert Nigeria's place as the world's fourth biggest democracy and ninth most populous state.

At his second inauguration, on October 1, 1983, Shehu Shagari seemed political unassailable. This time he had secured almost half the votes in the presidential election, which saw a higher poll than in

1979. His party had a clear majority in both houses of the National Assembly and controlled 12 states.

The President himself had been unanimously endorsed as his party's presidential candidate at a convention which was described as a "coronation". While bound to the constitution's requirement that public appointments should reflect the country's federal character, he now appeared to be free of the suffocating party control which in his first administration had obliged him when allocating posts to consult a party "bible" listing those thought to be deserving of advancement in each state. And since, constitutionally, he could have no third term, he could also now take decisions without regard to electoral factors.

Above all, by patience and hard work, Shehu Shagari had, before the end of the first term, established himself as a respected figure. In the early days of his administration

some governors of non-NPN states had treated him with courtesy. At its end all governors publicly and privately showed him the respect a head of state deserves. After much trial and error the new constitution, largely because of the President's political dexterity, was working.

Although he was criticized for making too many foreign visits, the President had become "one of Africa's most influential leaders, and a world figure. He was, it is true, denounced by the small band of Nigerian radicals as a 'lackey of the West', but he was uncompromising in his condemnation of apartheid, voicing it even at a state banquet at Buckingham Palace.

The achievements of his administration, however, had been modest, and for more than a year its energies had been absorbed by the consequences of the oil slump, the balance of payments crisis and the need to cut public spending. His reelection, by an increased vote, seemed more like a tribute to the man than a reward for his record, although since all parties contesting the 1979 election controlled one or more state governments, none of which had been conspicuously successful, none could point to a better record.

Corruption, which might be viewed with indulgence, mismanagement and extravagance, which might be overlooked, when revenues are rising, become intolerable burdens when revenue falls. Nobody knew that better than Alhaji Shehu Shagari. His tragedy is that while he was carefully preparing his campaign against Nigeria's evils for the next four years, less patient men have usurped it.

David Williams was editor of West Africa, 1949-1978, and author of a biography of Shehu Shagari, President and Power in Nigeria.

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Richard Owen finds Orwellian parallels with the crisis in the Kremlin



Last week's Politburo front bench (from left): Ustinov, Gromyko, Chernenko, Tikhonov - and Andropov's empty chair

How much longer can Big Brother watch from afar?

Moscow Foreigners now visiting Moscow might find the fact that the city is festooned with signs saying "1984" more than a little sinister. Along Kalinin Prospekt high-rise office buildings are illuminated with the gigantic 14-storey digits of the doom-laden year.

In the city centre, gaily coloured street illuminations brighten up the area round Red Square, but weary pedestrians, not unlike Orwell's proles, trudge past with their minds on the everyday struggle for survival. Television screens in Russian living rooms tell viewers that the party brought them untold benefits in 1983, even though the Russian equivalent of Winston Smith knows that life is dreary, the shops are still badly stocked, and the bright future has been postponed for yet another year.

But for most Russians, 1984 does promise change for the better: living standards have steadily improved under Mr Andropov, industrial growth rates have risen, with a forecast growth rate of around 4 per cent. The KGB, although rightly feared, is seen as much the guardian of the nation and its ideology as Orwellian thought police. Life is regimented and drab, but Russians compare their lot with that of their forebears and not with the unknown West.

Above all, Big Brother is conspicuous by his absence at the moment. Russians have never read *Nineteen Eighty Four* of course, but even if they knew about the Ministry of Truth and telescreens, they would probably agree that the Andropov regime has so far been remarkably faceless. This was true from the moment Mr Andropov took over in November 1982, but it has been dramatically reinforced by the Soviet leader's illness and absence from public life since August last year. His portrait is occasionally seen on hoardings and shown on television, but on the whole Big Brother is not watching at all: he is recovering from an unspecified illness (almost certainly kidney disease with heart complications) at a party sanatorium outside Moscow.

Even the most astute of Russians are aware that there is some crisis in the leadership, and that Mr Andropov's extraordinary five-month absence must be giving rise to a concealed struggle for power behind the Kremlin walls. The lack of foreign policy initiatives with only two weeks to go to the Stockholm disarmament conference - is an obvious sign of paralysis behind the facade of a normally functioning political machine.

Last Monday Mr Andropov sent word to the central committee of his "deep regret" that "because of temporary causes" he could not attend the plenum. Like many Soviet statements which seem breathtakingly inadequate at first sight, his explanation for his absence gradually became accepted by most Russians and he none the less dominated the week.

How long can the Soviet Union continue to function with an

invisible party leader and head of state? The reply of at least one official in the corridors of the Kremlin during the Supreme Soviet session was "almost indefinitely".

Unlike western systems, the machinery of Soviet government does not depend on national assemblies: there are no debates in the western sense, and no critical votes. The party rules through the Politburo - now restored to 13 full members - while the 300-member central committee (the next tier down) only convenes two or three times a year. Soviet policy is what the Politburo says it is, and the Politburo is guided by the general secretary, even (apparently) when he is not there.

None the less, ordinary Russians and central committee members alike expect their leader to guide them in person or risk loss of authority. Even in a one-party system the leader has to cajole, command, twist arms and whisper in ears, and in Russia there is a long tradition of powerful, visible leadership.

Central committee members represent powerful interests in administration, industry, the arts, public life and the sprawling republican and provincial structure. The Politburo and the leader come from their ranks. Mr Andropov's grip on the Politburo and the central committee does not seem to have loosened, judging by the changes he has recently made by remote control. The appointment of Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov to the Politburo is significant since it brings a young Andropov protégé to the centre of decision-making. Aged 37, and a firm supporter of Mr Andropov's anti-corruption campaign in the party, Mr Vorotnikov joins Mr Grigoriy Romanov (60) and Mr Mikhail Gorbachov (52) in the team of technocratic, efficiency-minded leaders likely to inherit the Andropov legacy. The promotion of General Viktor Chebrikov, head of the KGB, as candidate Politburo member also shows that Mr Andropov can still push his associates upward.

But many party officials already have their eye on the next bout of political manoeuvring. Jostling for position began in the Kremlin in November, as alarm rose over Mr Andropov's condition.

In his speech to the plenum - read for him and circulated among

delegates - Mr Andropov instructed, urged and exhorted in his old energetic manner. Some diplomats suspect the speech was a collective effort, and that the Kremlin has been covering up the fact that Mr Andropov is not working at all. But the speech had many Andropovian touches. "It is very important that we make a good start from the very first days of the New Year and get in the mood for a further increase in work intensity," he declared. "I must tell you quite bluntly... it is absolutely essential... we must not lose the tempo."

He attacked managerial incompetence, low labour output, irrational transport systems, scarce and shoddy consumer goods and environmental damage, and outlined a programme for "perfecting the entire mechanism of management". Combined with "limited industrial experiments" in five ministries, these could amount to an impressive long-term package.

During one of his last appearances, in August, Mr Andropov spoke of the need for greater economic efficiency and to turn "our entire huge system into an uninterrupted functioning and well-adjusted mechanism". The remark reflects his almost passionate concern to get the cumbersome planning system moving and make it more sensitive to real consumer needs. Under his leadership economic experts have publicly attacked the sin of "gigantomania" and have recommended decentralised systems more attuned to market realities.

There have even been hints that the Soviet Union might benefit from a spot of private enterprise in the service industries along Hungarian lines. One Moscow paper suggested in August that private taxis should be licensed, and quoted finance ministry officials as saying they approved of limited enterprise in other areas.

Such suggestions have run into stiff opposition from old-guard bureaucrats, some of whom subsequently went on record as arguing there was nothing wrong with the present system of central planning. Equally, Mr Andropov came under fire from those who thought he had not gone far enough. A Kremlin research paper leaked to the western press called for far-reaching changes in an essentially Stalinist structure riddled with corruption and irresponsibility, and hinted at the need for radical reforms.

Given the slow pace of change in Russia, it would be unrealistic to hope for much more than a revival of Mr Andropov's August call for an all-out attack on inertia and

"vigorous change" rather than "half measures". Symbolically he was flanked then by the two men most likely to succeed, Mr Romanov and Mr Gorbachov. They, after all, will inherit the results of the "limited industrial experiment" which will stretch over five years. It provides for some factory autonomy, with managers gaining control over production, marketing and investment.

The scheme is complemented by a "brigade" system of payment by results, with a parallel scheme in agriculture. In November, as the Andropov health crisis gathered pace, the Politburo endorsed the idea of team incentives and criticized hidebound managers who preferred a predictable wages system.

Despite Mr Andropov's sickbed exhortations, and despite the spectre he raised of popular discontent, there is a danger that the necessary action will not be taken. Many officials are reluctant to forge ahead in a new leader emerges with a different approach and different priorities. The very impatience and frustration of Mr Andropov's speech suggest that he is aware of this.

It is also striking that although 1983 ended with the Geneva talks in ruins and East-West relations at a low ebb, Mr Andropov made no mention at all of foreign affairs since 1957, and is a symbol of continuity. But the Kremlin cannot mark time indefinitely, and there is a chance that some of the old guard may step in. The late Mr Brezhnev's protégé, the 72-year-old Konstantin Chernenko, is an obvious contender, with Marshal Ustinov and Mr Viktor Grishin as compromise stopgaps. But the young Turks - Mr Romanov, Mr Gorbachov, and now Mr Vorotnikov - are knocking at the door.

Unless Big Brother resigns to let them in - and no Soviet leader has ever relinquished power voluntarily - the most the younger leaders can hope for is a prolonged crisis, giving them more time to manoeuvre. If the concealed succession struggle of the past few months shows anything, it is that the lack of a Kremlin transition mechanism is as much of a political obstacle as the periodic American presidential election campaigns, which the Russians so often blame for disrupting international affairs.

Roger Scruton

Time to wage war on peace studies

What is the Government doing to counter the effects of socialist policies in education? Sir Keith Joseph did eventually take a stand against the campaign of vilification recently directed at the National Council for Educational Standards. But not before the socialist establishment had filled the channels of communication with unscrupulous propaganda, designed to impede rational discussion of the council's latest report.

The Government seems determined to abolish the GLC, and yet it is willing to retain the only section of it that does lasting damage - the ILEA, surely the most militantly politicized of all our "educational" institutions, dedicated to "equality" at whatever educational cost.

Far worse than those two examples of a continuing hegemony, however, is the movement to introduce "Peace studies" into our schools. This subject - if it can be so called - shares an important feature with various other pursuits that incorporate the word "studies" into their name: women's studies, for example, black studies, and gay studies. This is that you can be fairly certain of the ideology of those who promote them.

In serious subjects, such as Latin, English and mathematics, all ideologies are represented, and none prevails.

In women's studies, however, you can be certain that a majority of the teachers are feminists, convinced of the need to "redress the political balance" to the benefit of a "disadvantaged" sex. Anyone who dares to suggest that the ideology of feminism might actually be false, will be denounced by them as a "reactionary", perhaps even a "fascist".

The question of the truth of feminism is vast and complex. The purpose of inventing "women's studies" is not to discuss the question, but to beg it, by making feminism into the premise of an academic discipline.

"Peace studies" is similarly concerned to beg the only question that it could conceivably answer - the question of how peace is secured. I happen to believe that there is no way to preserve peace in Europe without matching the armaments, and blocking the expansionist policies, of the Soviet Union. That belief of mine is based on reasoning, the major premise of which is the nature and history of the Soviet Union. Take away the premise, and I should certainly arrive at a different conclusion. I may be wrong; but I know that any person who sets out to discuss this question without first considering the major premise is irrational, and that a subject which is devoted (as "peace

studies" is devoted) to preventing all considerations of its own major premise is not an academic discipline but an exercise in propaganda.

A recent report, prepared by the department of "peace and conflict research" at Lancaster University, tells us that 11.8 per cent of Conservative councils have peace studies on the curriculum in their schools. The political asymmetry is already significant. What is most alarming, however, is the sheer extent of peace studies teaching in our schools.

One can be fairly certain that someone advocating the introduction of such a subject is a supporter of CND, and perhaps an out-and-out pacifist.

Thus the main pressure group advocating the introduction of peace studies - Teachers for Peace - declares that it "comes under the umbrella of CND". Its Dovepax starter pack, issued to help teachers to begin a course of peace studies, contains nothing but unilateralist propaganda.

Among the teaching methods that it advocates is the following, introduced into schools in the North-east by Durham Schools Against the Bomb:

One of the "teachers" describes a line running along the middle of the classroom. This line goes from "complete pacifism" to the opposite extreme, which is, apparently, "belief in both nuclear and conventional weapons". The children are then encouraged to stand at their preferred point on the line, and to suffer whatever criticism may be provoked by doing so. Predictably, the middle point on the line (and therefore the point of safety to which the pupil will naturally gravitate) is defined as that of the "unilateral nuclear disarmament".

The aim of propaganda is to teach people to think in one-dimensional terms, and so to reduce all problems, however complex, to a simple for and against, left and right, them and us. In a democracy, the clever propagandist defines his preferred position as the centre between two extremes. All he has to do is to persuade his victim to accept the spectrum, and he can then guarantee the result that he desires. Such is the nature of the campaign that is now being fought in all seriousness in our schools. It is a campaign not for new forms of education, but against the nature and history of the Soviet Union. Take away the premise, and I should certainly arrive at a different conclusion. I may be wrong; but I know that any person who sets out to discuss this question without first considering the major premise is irrational, and that a subject which is devoted (as "peace

Mark Goyder

Solution please, in double-quick time

When the War Cabinet met on May 9, 1944, Winston Churchill was preoccupied with the preparations for the Normandy landings and admitted that he had not had time to read the document that he was committing to it, the White Paper on Employment Policy. He had not even had time to read Lord Cherwell's covering memorandum, except for the first sentence which said that the paper was bold, able, and worthy of full support. That was good enough for Churchill.

And so it was that the Cabinet approved the most momentous promise made by any British government. As the Conservative industry spokesman, Henry Brooke, put it at the time, "My aim is that no man, except through his own fault, should ever have to be many days without the prospect of a job."

It is nearly 40 years since the promise was made, and nearly 10 since government began to recognize that it was impossible to fulfil to the letter, yet still the promise echoes around the British political landscape. Opposition parties make much of the failure to tackle the unemployment but, if they have sense and are serious in their wish to govern, they will shrink from repeating Henry Brooke's words. The government could of course restore employment and increase our efficiency by embarking on a programme of investment in the home of Britain - areas such as housing, renewal, transport, and sewerage. But its implementation would not redeem the promise of 1944.

It simply is not good enough to keep talking as though an alternative macroeconomic approach alone will be enough to end mass unemployment. Policies are needed now that cover not only the creation but also the distribution of employment. Consider one crucial example. This year Britain will still have the fourth highest unemployment level in Europe, yet at present we operate the highest level of overtime anywhere in Europe, around 10 hours a week.

Looking around my friends and neighbours, I am struck by the gulf that exists between two extremes. Few seem to have got the balance right between home, work and leisure. There are those whose jobs demand and get 60 hours a week of weekend visitor to their families. Then there are those, retired, redundant or single parent, who are nearly always at home. The unattractive ideal these people yearn for is not an impossibly full-time job but that little counterweight, a part-time job or activity that takes them away from home for long enough to make it a pleasure to return.

Now consider the problem faced by an employer in continuous-process

manufacturing. Except for Christmas and a two-week closure in summer, the plant must run all year. With five weeks' holiday, sickness and absenteeism, there remain at least four weeks per man or woman that have to be covered by overtime. Each of those four weeks per man entails two colleagues working more than 60 hours. And since nobody apart from the odd skier wants to go on holiday between January and March, that leaves late spring, summer and autumn as the period when those people who are not themselves on holiday are working 60 hours a week.

It is an arrangement which leaves everyone complaining but which, paradoxically, neither workers nor employers are keen to change. Family men may resent the time away from home, but will not turn down the extra income if it is available. Production managers go grey trying to keep the jobs covered on this system, but their accountant colleagues have calculated that it is cheaper to employ men permanently for 55 hours a week than reorganize to 40 and take on a fresh shift.

Somewhat we have achieved the worst of both worlds, polarizing between the overstretched and the understimulated. The problem can be solved only by government, for it is government which determines the trade-off between overtime, full-time and part-time working.

We must reduce the cost of extra employment and increase the cost of overemployment, without increasing overall employment costs. Why not simply abolish the national insurance surcharge on plain-time working and steeply increase it on overtime? Give employers and unions time to adjust working patterns by phasing in the change over, say, three years. A special tax advantage could be offered to companies to introduce productivity, profit-sharing, or capital sharing schemes to help fill the gap left by the overtime in many people's earnings.

Alternatively, leave the national insurance surcharge as it is on plain-time working and compound it for overtime, using the savings to pay a corresponding subsidy per part-time employee recruited. That would strike a blow for single parents and those with domestic or community commitments.

Resistance from vested interests; unwillingness to change; claims that the proposals are administratively unworkable, all can be expected as part of the usual litany of inertia. The fact remains that we are bumbling away with a policy of overconcentrating work in few jobs. This is a betrayal of elementary social justice and of economic sense, and it will be the hallmark of a constructive opposition to say so.

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UPHILL FOR THOUGHT POLICE

So vivid and so close to reality - at least, to an aspect of reality - was Orwell's nightmare vision that a whole civilization seems at this moment to be anxiously pinching itself to see how far it is fully awake, and how far the nightmare has come true.

The magazine *Index on Censorship*, which keeps a worldwide watch on interference with freedom of thought and of expression, is well qualified to report not only how but where 1984 most resembles *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Not surprisingly its first issue of the new year, to be published next week, gives pride of place to Orwellian themes. Its lead article, on Cambodia, is entitled "The Khmer Rouge: beyond 1984?" Then there are two articles by Czech writers who find different aspects of Orwell's vision uncannily and uncomfortably reflected in the present experience of their own country. After that the explicit reference is dropped, but the reader can easily recognize for himself, in this as in any other issue of the magazine, the sinister collaboration of the Ministry of Truth and the Ministry of Peace, under their various local pseudonyms, in country after country.

There is, unquestionably, a lot of it about. Complacency about the future of freedom is hardly in order. Nor, however, is despair. On reading *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in 1984 one's first sentiment must be gratitude that one can still do that; just as, reading *Index on Censorship* in London, one must be grateful to live in a city where such a magazine can be printed and published rather than furtively copied and passed from hand to hand. The struggle of the human spirit against its own totalitarian proclivities is not yet over, for either good or ill.

Orwell's immediate target was Stalinism, which in 1949 was still in the heyday of its ghastliness at home, and still had innumerable admirers and apologists in Western Europe. In that very year China fell under its yoke, ensuring that today well over a third of the human race would be ruled by Stalin's successors. The fact that the successors do not get on with each other makes no difference to the essence of the system, as Orwell rightly foresaw. ("The citizen of Oceania is not allowed to know anything of the tenets of the other two philosophies, but he is taught to execrate them as barbarous outrages upon morality and common sense. Actually the three philosophies are barely distinguishable, and the social systems which they support are not distinguishable at all.")

But not only has Stalinism not conquered the whole world. Even within its own domain it does not seem to be winning the crucial battle for control of the human mind. The article which *Index* presents as the work of "a Czech Winston Smith" is in this respect particularly interesting, and in a paradoxical way encouraging. For it is not an article written by an exile for consumption in the free world, but an extract from the introduction to a Czech translation of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* which is about to appear in Prague as a samizdat typescript.

The author, the dissident writer Milan Simečka, describes many points of similarity between his own experience and that of Winston Smith in the novel, but there is a very clear and striking difference. Mr Simečka is able to give a coherent account of his experience, to write it down, to communicate it to other people who, he knows, will share his understanding of and contempt for the way in which their society is run. No doubt in doing so he runs enormous risks, but he can do it. He can think for himself, and he knows he is not alone in doing so.

In other words, even Czechoslovakia is not yet in *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. If it were, there could be no such thing as a "dissident writer". Moreover, the signs are that, if anything, it is receding from that condition rather than advancing towards it. Mr Simečka admits that "Big Brother" no longer glares down upon the Czechs from every hoarding, as he used to "in the days of my youth". There is a reason for that. The party knows that people will not swallow that sort of personality cult any more, and also that it is dangerous above all for the members of the inner party themselves.

Even if it is still expanding geographically, ideologically Stalinism is on the retreat. It is difficult to find an adult citizen of any communist country who actually believes the news put out by official media. In the West the argument is no longer about anything positive the Soviet system might have to offer but about whether it is evil incarnate or merely very unpleasant, and whether one can have any useful relations with it other than those of outright confrontation.

Perhaps the country which gives the most convincing Orwellian performance in 1984 (given that the Khmers Ronges since 1978 have been replaced, no thanks to the free world, by a significantly less malign variant of Stalinism) is one which owes no admitted debt to Stalinism or

indeed to socialism of any sort the "Islamic Republic" of Iran. Mr Gholam Hoseyn Sa'edi, who writes about Iran in the new issue of *Index*, makes no allusion to Orwell. But his account of "Iran under the Party of God" requires little adaptation to fit the picture.

Far more than in Russia or Czechoslovakia, the "revolution" in Iran intrudes into private life, requiring of the citizen not mere passive cooperation but enthusiastic and constant repetition of its slogans. There repentant "sinners", including former leaders of the communist party, appear on television to protest their love and gratitude to Big Brother (alias the "Imam" Khomeini), confess to a whole string of improbable crimes, repudiate everything they have previously fought for, and accept in advance whatever sentence "Islamic" justice sees fit to impose.

There, too, a degree of genuine mass hysteria seems to be sustained in the form of public hatred, by carrying on an actual war against a constantly vilified adversary, whose political and social system - with the exception of such features as the tolerance of alcohol and the visibility of women's heads - is not in reality so very different from Iran's own. In the Iran of 1984 not only is war peace, freedom slavery and ignorance strength: extreme reaction is presented as revolutionary, and the most diabolical crimes as the will of God - the last being an inversion so audacious that apparently neither Stalin nor Orwell thought of it.

All this is related to Islam only as Orwell's *Ingsoc* is to socialism. In both cases the seeds of the perversion can be identified in the original ideology, but the result is the opposite of what had been promised and fought for. The inclusion of religion, which has a deeper hold on most human beings than mere secular ideology, renders the mixture more potent and therefore more dangerous.

Even so, Islamic totalitarianism is no more certain of ultimate victory than the Stalinist variety. "Nothing in Oceania is efficient except the Thought Police," according to "the book". But, in the long run, the inefficiency of the system as a whole must surely impair the efficiency of the Thought Police itself by making it more and more difficult for people to believe what they are supposed to believe. In the early years of a revolution a relatively large number of people can be fooled. But the number does tend to diminish as time goes by.

PRYING EYES OF THE PRESS

There will be general public sympathy for the Queen's request that her family's privacy on holiday be respected, and the media should with no hesitation respond to it, and continue to respond to it.

The buyers of newspapers may appear to have an almost insatiable appetite for pictures and reports giving them the illusion of intimate familiarity with the personal lives of members of the Royal Family, and the reporters and photographers who dog their off-duty footsteps may appear to be responding to demand. But even the intrusive side of public curiosity is rooted in good will. When reminded of it, most people know very well how unpleasant they would find it to have their private activities under relentless surveillance, and if they see that it is a serious annoyance to the Queen, which it plainly is, they resent it.

The nation has an interest both proper and natural in the personal lives of royalty, as well as in their public appearances. One of the functions of the monarchy in our national life is to represent the significance of family life. The circulation of nursery photographs and sentimental information about how the youngsters are coming on is as much a part of that function nationally as it is to the lives of

any other family. Public expectations have changed, and royalty today accepts a privacy far more circumscribed than thirty or fifty years ago. The area that remains is all the more important to their happiness, when they have so little respite from the glare of life-long publicity.

It was no doubt with a view to satisfying claims of this kind that the Prince and Princess of Wales arranged a photographic session with their son for the media just before Christmas. But the courtesy was not enough to put off the telephoto squad from staking out Sandringham over the holiday.

The Queen's protest is sharp and measured. It is issued not as an anonymous Palace statement, but explicitly on her personal instructions. It appeals to editors to withdraw their own staff and to refrain from encouraging freelance snooping by buying pictures obtained by intrusions. It is a request to be treated with plain good manners, and it would be plain bad manners to disregard it. It would also be imprudent.

The media are in a weak position just now to claim that their activities can be justified by an appeal to the public interest and the public's right to know. The press has had a wretched record in recent months over

sensational stories that cruelly exploit individuals, both royal and humble. The Press Council has censured the frenzies of innuendo and cheque-book journalism indulged in over the Fagan and Sutcliffe cases. The Palace has complained more than once about hounding of younger members of the Royal Family. Last year it took action in the courts to prevent the publication of reminiscences of a former employee in breach of his promise of confidentiality.

If it were decisively aroused, public distaste for the excesses of the media might generate support for controls which would be harmful in the wider context. It was significant last year how much eminent support came from both sides of the Commons for Mr Frank Ailman's Bill to create a statutory right of reply. In the long run, extension of legal controls over editorial discretion and sense of decency is only too likely to give a greater leverage to those seeking to hamper the legitimate activities of the media. Observance of higher standards and collective self-regulation through a strengthened and more respected Press Council are far better means of curbing the excesses of the press than any extension of the law. But unless those means are seen to be employed, pressures to legislate will grow.

Urban heritage

From Mr Brian Hobley
Sir, Andrew Selkirk (November 25) and Ralph Merrifield (December 7) have discussed the respective roles of amateur and professional archaeologists in saving the archaeological heritage of Greater London in the face of property redevelopment. The central issue is the emergence in the last 10 years or more of professional field archaeologists mainly employed on rescue investigations. This, as Selkirk should appreciate, arose directly from the failure of existing arrangements with part-time university field archaeologists, local organizations and societies.

The intensity of redevelopment in historic towns, and especially in the City of London, makes a permanent

professional provision essential. Since 1973 over 100 investigations have taken place in the City, and the Museum of London's Department of Urban Archaeology has become the largest professional unit in Europe, with voluntary grants of over £2m contributed in the last four years by developers themselves towards excavation and publications of their sites.

The main reasons for this success have been continuous contacts with the developers and the observance of agreed timetables. Credibility and trust have been established as between professionals and the developers have learnt that today's archaeological objective is a full and accurate record rather than the preservation of structures *in situ*.

I can well understand Selkirk's sympathy for local societies, as in

Britain there is a strong amateur tradition going back to the seventeenth century. However, it is important that the limitations of their contributions are understood. The achievements of professional units at Lincoln, Oxford, York, etc could never have been matched on a part-time basis. The challenge of rescuing our archaeological heritage today calls for an entirely different approach, in recognition of which an Institute of Field Archaeologists was established a year ago and is gaining recognition from developers and their consultants, planners, architects, land surveyors, etc, all closely related professions.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HOBLEY,
Chief Urban Archaeologist,
The Museum of London,
London Wall, EC2.

Perils of man and machine

From Professor Donald Michie

Sir, Mr Parker's letter (December 17) complains of your headline "Computer error blamed in Korean jet disaster" as being an odd description of the conjectured insertion by the pilot of wrong data. Headline-writer and critic both share a common assumption that for disaster to be implicit in the decisions of a man-computer system there has to be either a human error (postulated in this case) or a computer error (as implied by the headline). While this assumption doubtless holds for the computer-based KAL 007 navigation system, your readers should be warned that beyond a certain level of design and performance complexity the assumption breaks down.

Disaster can then unfold via perfectly correct exchanges between two agents (man and machine) on opposite sides of an unbridgeable barrier of inscrutability. Even error-free sequences of man-computer interaction may lead to grave aggravation of risk, as occurred at Three Mile Island. During Sunday false alarms of America's Norad (North American air defence command) nuclear warning system, computer error was additionally involved. In such cases opacity of computer decisions to human comprehension and checking may compound a state of error into a state of mortal peril.

A review by Dr D. Kopec and myself was recently published by the European Community ("Mismatch between machine representations and human concepts: dangers and remedies," FAST series No 9, Report EUR8426 EN, Brussels, 1983). We concluded that the problem of providing the missing "bridge" functions is intractable by traditional software methods. The issue has subsequently been shared by studies reported at international meetings in San Francisco, Washington and elsewhere concerning the likely consequences even of a limited nuclear exchange for continued human habitability of the northern hemisphere. Such findings should redress anxiety from what may be started on purpose to what may be started by accident.

Software systems appropriate for bridging the concept gap between complex computing systems and their users belong to the grandly known as intelligent knowledge-based systems (IKBS). The new methods are beginning to migrate from laboratory experiment into practice, and "intelligent front-ends" have been installed for a few toy-scale applications. IKBS front ends would clearly be desirable for interpreting what is machine-inferred to be going on during the few minutes available for deciding whether or not to fire UK-based missiles.

But until such front ends have been developed and are in place, it would seem that our Government's decision to dispense with dual-key and other controls is not prudent.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD MICHIE,
(Professor of Machine Intelligence,
University of Edinburgh),
10 Bellevue Crescent,
Edinburgh,
December 18.

Gatwick concern

From Mr A. W. Jackson

Sir, Concern is being expressed at the environmental effect of further expansion at Gatwick Airport. Shortly after the war I was assisting Anthony Minoprio, in the preparation of the master plan for Crawley New Town. At that time Gatwick Airport was little more than a grass strip; its possible extension would have a profound effect on the development of the New Town.

We were assured by the Ministry of Civil Aviation that this would not happen; indeed I recall being flown over the area to be shown that this was quite impossible.

The impossible has been achieved; one wonders if there is any value in future Government assurances.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX W. JACKSON,
Jackson, Green, Down & Partners,
Hinton Buildings,
Hinton Road,
Bournemouth,
Dorset,
December 30.

Church and remarriage

From the Reverend A. W. Beer

Sir, Mr Stretch calls upon the Church of England (December 27) to eschew the caspistry employed by "other ancient churches" in declaring marriage null on "mere technicalities".

A church which owes its existence to a strictly-censured marital position is surely not in a position either to decide the "technicalities" of other churches or to describe itself as ancient.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. BEER,
The Rectory,
25 Bevington Street,
Cobham,
Surrey,
December 27.

Library sponsorship

From the Secretary General of the Library Association

Sir, I refer to your report in *The Call* (Report, December 20) to the public libraries for the Arts to consider the possibility of library sponsorship of charging services.

Public libraries do charge for some services, and this qualifies the principle of free access upon which the concept of a public library service has been built over the last century, in practice the cost

of administering such much of such income. Furthermore, libraries have the necessary private sponsorship which is an insignificant amount compared with expenditure.

The authors of the report do not consider that direct income is a realistic way of funding the library service and that charges, even if levied, could not maintain the existing level of service.

Yours faithfully,
J. LAWREY, Secretary General,
Library Association,
Edgemoor Street, WCI,
December 20.

THE EDITOR

Deadly weapons

The INF talks (and START, too) are now dead because Pershing 2 and SS20 (and its on-the-way successor) are strategic systems; those in Europe are concerned; and because the United States cannot negotiate over "strategic" weapons with other Governments.

The arms race is too serious to be left to the arms racers, Britain and France, and China - all long term proponents of minimum deterrence - their defence policies - should move fast into the present vacuum, before it is filled with the new high-technology ("Star Wars", "conventional") arms races.

If the world is alarmed enough, it can start setting its house in order: disarmament and disarmament, and the security of nations, are not in the least inconceivable, provided that:

(1) negotiations address whole problems, not arbitrarily defined "bite-sized" bits, as up to now; and
(2) Governments, particularly those of the two super powers, abandon their false belief that a terrifyingly offensive capability is either sound deterrence, or can be converted into political clout.

What is needed is an agenda that will allow the most threatening weapons, asymmetrically disposed though they are, to be identified, frozen and reduced in the first stage of that long and slow process, which, once again we now have a chance to begin properly.

Yours etc,
LIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Bayswater Road, W2,
December 21.

Education

From Mr L. J. Cope
Sir, I am writing to you in connection with the 27th December 1983, when Mr S. D. Brown, Director of the Education Service, called on me.

This was a very pleasant and useful meeting. I was particularly interested in the work of the Education Service, and in the work of the Education Service, and in the work of the Education Service.

The time for the well intentioned is long past. Decisions of such importance must be based on evidence. Is this not what the law is about?

Yours truly,
RANK A. HELLER, Director,
Centre for Decision-Making Studies,
The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations,
11 Tavistock Square, NW3,
December 28.

Scrutiny

From Mr M. J. Scruton
Sir, I am writing to you in connection with the 27th December 1983, when Mr S. D. Brown, Director of the Education Service, called on me.

This was a very pleasant and useful meeting. I was particularly interested in the work of the Education Service, and in the work of the Education Service, and in the work of the Education Service.

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Yours truly,
RANK A. HELLER, Director,
Centre for Decision-Making Studies,
The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations,
11 Tavistock Square, NW3,
December 28.

Smoking

From Mr D. M. Smith
Sir, Bernard Williams, in his article "Smoking: a reply" (December 27), says that "the suffering they cause" is "such poison as the smoke of a cigarette".

As he well knows, it is not the smoke of a cigarette that is the poison, but the tar and nicotine which it carries.

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC KWIATKOWSKI,
Health Authority,
Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children,
Crickle Road,
Birmingham,
December 22.

Combating

From Mr Hugh A. Parsons
Sir, I feel that Mr S. D. Brown, Director of the Education Service, called on me.

This was a very pleasant and useful meeting. I was particularly interested in the work of the Education Service, and in the work of the Education Service, and in the work of the Education Service.

The time for the well intentioned is long past. Decisions of such importance must be based on evidence. Is this not what the law is about?

Yours truly,
RANK A. HELLER, Director,
Centre for Decision-Making Studies,
The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations,
11 Tavistock Square, NW3,
December 28.

Seeking exact date of Crucifixion

From Dr Geza Vermes

Sir, Two Oxford scientists claim (report, December 23) to have determined the exact date of the crucifixion - April 3, AD 33 - by combining the generally known chronological data with a previously ignored lunar eclipse on the evening of Jesus' execution.

Where did they obtain this fresh information? Certainly not from the primary sources, for the Passion narratives of the Gospels have nothing to say on the subject. In fact, given the positive interest in signs and wonders which they display, eg. darkness at noon (interpreted by Luke 23:45 as a solar eclipse), their complete silence on this other score is particularly telling.

It is not in the Gospels, but in Acts 2:20 ("The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood") that Drs Humphreys and Waddington contrive to find their clue. Ignoring the mention of the sun, they concentrate on the second half of the sentence, reading into it not only a normal description of the moon in eclipse, but also a reference to the day of the crucifixion.

Whether the idiom "the moon (turned) into blood" may be accepted as a common designation for a lunar eclipse is open to question since the words, borrowed from the prophet Joel (3:4), occur once in the entire Hebrew Bible. But in any case, the long Joel citation (3:1-5) in Acts 2:17-21 has nothing to do with the crucifixion. It applies to the Apostles' speaking with tongues at the first Pentecost, as is explicitly stated in Acts 2:15-16.

In reality, the lunar eclipse on which this sensational theory rests derives from a gross misunderstanding and misinterpretation of biblical language, where the great drama of the end of time is regularly depicted by means of clichés such as the darkening of the sun and the moon, earthquakes, falling stars, etc.

To take any one of these metaphors *au pied de la lettre* (even in a correct context) and construct upon it a chronological argument exemplifies, it would seem, the kind of naïveté to which scientists inexperienced in historical-literary matters tend to be prone. In brief, the astronomical calculations of Humphreys and Waddington may be faultless, but they are totally beside the point.

Yours faithfully,
GEZA VERMES,
The Oriental Institute,
Pusey Lane,
Oxford,
December 27.

Freesheet troubles

From Mr L. J. Cope

Sir, Having had similar experience to your correspondent, D. T. Brown (December 27), with a plague of local "freesheets", I feel that my method of dealing with this nuisance, having been wholly successful, might be of interest to others with the same problem.

In the first instance one telephoned the office of the paper concerned, saying that the paper is not wanted and asking that the distributor be notified.

When the second copy is delivered after the telephone call (allowing for any delays in communication) a letter is written to the editor, by name if possible, threatening him, and the distributor, with legal action unless delivery is stopped forthwith.

I wish your readers similar success.

Yours faithfully,
L. J. COPE,
54 Brownhills Road,
Brownhills,
Walsall,
Staffordshire,
December 27.

Book prize

From Mr M. E. Pountney

Sir, We hate disappointing our customers, as I am sure you hate misleading your readers.

E. J. Craddock's "Uncommon market" piece in your December 19 issue, about Open Market editions of paperback, risks causing both things to happen if it goes uncorrected.

At Heathrow, Terminal 3, and at all other airports, the only bookstall that sells Open Market editions (incidentally, with the active encouragement of the publishers) is the outside stall; that is, the one on the outward side of Customs.

So, before your "canny readers" rush off to Heathrow or any other international airport they should be advised to be going somewhere and to have their passports with them.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL POUNTNEY,
Book Merchandise Controller,
W. H. Smith & Son Limited,
Strand House,
10 New Fetter Lane, EC4,
December 21.

Video nasty

From Mr Adam Farnell

Sir, Reflecting peacefully over a drink at a Kensington heady yesterday evening, my attention was drawn to a noisy new video game attracting regular custom from enthusiastic younger patrons.

Essentially a "shoot-em-up" scenario, the maximum bonus score available to the player in his role as World War II fighter pilot is won by shooting down an interminably appearing haled-out pilot, whose large white parachute is blatantly marked with a red cross.

What price our cherished heritage of fair play and diplomacy when we encourage such notions amongst our budding statesmen?

Yours faithfully,
ADAM FARNEILL,
4 Jonathan Court,
Windmill Road, W4,
December 28.

THE ARTS

The pleasures of the new-look Festival Hall could be dubious

The deserving case of the 'unpopular' concert

Griffiths explains

Concert

On the face of it, the Festival Hall has never looked brighter. It even has the appearance of a place that positively welcomes people. Where once stretched acres of grey carpet, there are now merry little bars and foodstalls, knick-knack shops and a craft market. The foyer is bustling with activity instead of feeling perpetually like Heathrow at 3 am.

But the urge to "open" the South Bank - which has become ever more obvious since Lawrence Peterkin, the nominee of the present GLC, took effective control almost a year ago - also has its problematic aspects. Mr Peterkin has said that he has no intention of influencing the programmes that orchestras choose to play at the Festival

Hall, and there is no evidence of pressure being brought to bear, either directly or through the Board, which manages grants made to the orchestras by the GLC and by the Arts Council. However, orchestras can be general atmosphere as by firm directive, perhaps more readily, and there is little doubt about the atmosphere prevailing on the South Bank.

Nobody was very bashful, for instance, about the seven per cent increase in attendance recently announced, and, in fervently denying that he wants to fill the Festival Hall with Tchaikovsky every night, Mr Peterkin lends support to the supposition that it is the GLC's aim to make programmes more "popular". Of course, it may well be that the GLC does not live to see much headway made in that direction. But even within two or three years the pattern of concert life in London

could be affected, and so there is a need to examine the notion that the usefulness of a concert hall is measured by audience figures, that subsidy is only merited when it is met by box-office response.

Indeed, one could argue on the contrary that subvention of the arts is justified only to the extent that they are unpopular, since popular events can be expected to pay for themselves. A socialist economy, or even an ordinarily prudent one, should

therefore be where support is lacking, with support may popularity. And the Festival Hall, with its prospect of the GLC, is a local authority through

where the box-office returns are likely to be negligible.

There is no reason why, though, support for contemporary music, or for anything else, should be doled out unthinkingly. It is a commonplace to say that state and local authorities have now replaced the patrons of the arts, but there is an important difference: the latter actually cared what Haydn wrote. Quite what would happen if this kind of discipline were to be exerted by the leaders of the Arts Council and the GLC I am not sure. But, if it were matched by a real involvement in enlivening the art of music, and not just the interiors of concert halls, it might be interesting.

known language: an unknown piece by an unknown composer might be anything. If the GLC were to embark on a series of Unpopular Concerts, they would do best, therefore, to choose their repertoire from exactly that area of music that is at present most poorly represented in South Bank programmes: namely, contemporary work. And, if need to justify themselves, they can most readily do so by putting resources into events

occasional 'ahistoricalness', she lets us see why Tom and his father leave her but from coquettish to maternally loving to sensually alive when she speaks of her husband, she is as well as a stronger Blanche DuBois. She can show more emotion with one line - a cry of triumph at selling a magazine subscription followed by a sigh at having to do it - than most performers in whole scenes. Even when girded by detractors, Jessica Tandy's Amanda has the fascination of that rare combination of star power and acting virtuosity.

A musical about parenthood. Baby follows an unmarried student couple, a middle-aged pair with grown children and an infertile couple through the stages of (or attempts at) pregnancy. The six actor-singer principals are vibrant, the music by David Shire is melodic and Richard Maltby Jr's lyrics are pensive (especially the middle-aged husband's song about it being easier to love an unquestioning child than a wife).

Even with its screen projections of growth, however, the show's aspirations at universality are thwarted by the total WASPishness of the couples. Some ethnic/social variety might have given the characters and music texture and variety. As it is, the musical plays like a repetitious and overlong revue.

Off-Broadway has not been able to feel superior to the Great White Way in recent weeks. A much-anticipated Ses Gull by the Circle Repertory Company - consistently the most able naturalistic acting ensemble in

Theatre in New York

mine through the clouds



Jessica Tandy: power and virtuosity

town - has an ardent Konstantin and Nina in Richard Thomas and Katherine Cortez, and a weird Trigorin in Judd Hirsch (who plays with a Yiddish accent, as if the character had emigrated to New York's Lower East Side, thought better of it, and returned), but was otherwise so flat as to enhance Chekhov's reputation for being boring.

CSC (City Stage Company), the intrepid group that last season produced both parts of Goethe's *Faust* for the first time in America - is presenting the entirety of Botho Strauss's *Big and Little* in a new translation by the company's artistic director, Christopher Martin, thereby righting previous wrongs of bowdlerized versions done here and in London. As Strauss's *Everywoman*, Karen Sunde imprints a haunting face on all the bag ladies of the world.

The one outstanding production in town since Peter Brook's *Carmen* happens to be right under it, in the little theatre (the Newhouse) at Lincoln Center. C. P. Taylor's... and a Nightingale. Saing features several of the actors from the American premiere at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater and has been directed with uncanny seamlessness (for a play combining narration and action) by Terry Kinney. Among the nearly flawless cast, Joan Allen as Taylor's heroine - a sort of Laura Wingfield who overcomes her limp and her complexes - is so luminous that her New York debut brightens the season like sun glistening upon snow.

Holly Hill

Television

Unsocial clichés

Last night, on Beyond 1984 (BBC1), barrister named Stephen Sedley came out with the hysterical twaddle which this sort of series inevitably leads one to expect. His heart, of course, was in the right place: a state which computer-controls its citizens' destinies is rightly to be feared, as are secret courts and an autonomous and racist police force.

Mr Sedley's head, however, was stuffed with clichés of the kind which used to fill the pages of the *New Statesman* when, in the late Seventies, that organ was itself in the grip of political paranoia. The laws against racism and sexism were of course "largely cosmetic", society was suffering from an "unprecedented" division into classes with differing legal rights (what a shame Mr Sedley did not do O-level English history), "institutionalized racism" in schools meant black, working-class children being IQ-tested by white, middle-class teachers; the state would soon be deciding both who could bear children and who could keep them. Evidence? Ah, there really was not time. The subsequent panel discussion was not previewed: I trust he got a trouncing.

Real life, on the other hand, was to be found in uncomfortable abundance in A Childhood (Channel 4) despite the fact that the home under scrutiny must have harboured cameras and cameramen in every available nook and cranny.

John and Rebecca, aged 10 and 11, live in Brixton with their mother and three elder sisters, having recently flitted thither from Belfast. We saw the electricity man "call, quite routinely, to cut off their power; an equally routine family whirl-round, with Gran playing a major part, sent him away again for 24 hours. Mum went out to see her boyfriend, threatening four cracked jaws if there was any fighting. Angela Pope's film cut repeatedly from high life in the pub to high life back at the ranch, whose rebellious occupants had sneaked out to buy some hot chips.

A telephone link was laboriously set up between a modestly vandalized public booth and Dad, loving from across the water. "How're you keeping?" "Alright." "Are you still at school?" "Yeah." "Every day?" "No, not every day." "Why?" "Some days Mum just keeps me off." John and Rebecca both want to become motor mechanics, and yearn for Ireland. Mum, for whom marriage in Ireland was a vale of tears, will never go back. It would take a remarkably sophisticated state computer to get any purchase on these embattled lives, or indeed to soften their hardship.

Amy (BBC 1), by Roger Milner, made a perfect New Year treat. Harriet Walter, with bruised, ardent gaze, was perfectly believable in the part of Amy Johnson, as was Clive Francis as the cadish but irresistible Jim Mollison. This was the cameraman Nat Crosby's directorial debut: unostentatiously meticulous period detail, and magic with Tiger Moths.

Michael Church

Gifts from beyond: Balthus's 1938 *Le Rêve* and (right) Liliane Lijn's *Feathered Lady* in *Electra*

Paris galleries

A grand mysterious obsession

Balthus/Hans Bellmer
Photographs
Centre Pompidou
Autour de Raphaël
Louvre
Raphaël dans les collections
françaises/Raphaël et l'art
français/Turner
Grand Palais
Electra
Musée d'Art Moderne de la
Ville de Paris
Saint Sébastien
Musée National des Arts et
Traditions Populaires

Looking out of my train window in the gathering dusk at Annay-sous-Aunay, on my way to the airport, I suddenly saw a perfect Balthus. A little stretch of street, bounded on all sides by cubist-looking blind walls, on the left a man in a raincoat, walking away, on the right two men talking, and in the centre, most improbably, a little girl with a hoop. Was I, I wondered wildly for a moment, suffering from delusions? But no: as the train pulled away, the man with his back to me receded into the distance, and the little girl vanished round a corner, bowling her hoop before her.

I am not sure what this shows. That Balthus is, after all, a ruthless realist? Perhaps. Or more likely, that he is one of those artists who, once they have laid claim to a certain territory of the mind for themselves, dredge it, perhaps, from the depths of the unconscious, proceed to impress its image indelibly on external reality for everyone else to see. Certainly in the big Balthus retrospective at the Centre Pompidou (until January 23) one is very vividly conscious of being in the presence of a grand obsessive. Though by no means all of Balthus's paintings concern, as they are popularly supposed to, chunky nymphs in equivocal poses and curious states of undress, there is undoubtedly a strong element of that, saved (but sometimes only just) from being soft-core porn by the monumentality of the compositions and the pervasive mystery of the subjects, poised as most of them are on the edges of sleep and dream - the sort of pubescent slumber, surely, that gives rise to poltergeists.

In any case, much the same subjects recur with slight variations: the dream messenger in the various versions of *Le Rêve* is carrying different gifts from beyond, but the general import is the same. And Balthus was never one to hesitate to do a picture over again if he thought he could do it better - as witness two major versions of *Le Rêve*. It is interesting to find that, even in his country landscapes, versions of other, more familiar paintings are secreted - the room with his back turned, walking resolutely away from the spectator, appears in several unlikely places, for instance. But what strikes one more than anything else in this show is the sheer beauty of Balthus's paint: the painstaking way that it is applied to suggest a faded, crumbling antique fresco without ever seeming like pastiche, the infinitely subtle, carefully balanced pale colouring gently suffusing the stiff yet strangely convincing poses of the characters who haunt this private world.

More and more frequently, I find, people engaged in the fruitless discussion of who now deserves the title of the greatest living painter seem to be mentioning the name of Balthus. It seems improbable, but looking round this exhibition one suddenly finds it a lot less improbable. Just think about it. Who else would you suggest?

Far removed from all this is the august spirit of Raphaël, the five-hundredth anniversary of whose birth is being grandly celebrated with a number of exhibitions throughout France. Paris proper has three, all until February 13: at the Louvre *Autour de Raphaël*, a dazzling collection of paintings and drawings from Raphaël's milieu, and at the Grand Palais *Raphaël dans les collections françaises* and *Raphaël et l'art français*.

The main show of Raphaël himself is perhaps a trifle disappointing, compared, for instance, with the British Museum's staggering show of his drawings. There are, it is true, a handful of masterpieces, but somehow the attention seems inordinately drawn away towards the dubious works and those once, sentimentally, attributed to Raphaël by nineteenth-century taste. These make, though, a very useful preface to the nearby show illustrating the influence of Raphaël on French art, which is totally fascinating as a document in the history of taste, with Raphaël as the inkblot test at the centre, sublimely uncaring what later generations might make of his leading motifs or even his physical appearance (there are dozens of paintings related to the nineteenth-century myth of Raphaël). Sometimes the fetched: after all, any mother-and-child is going faintly to resemble any other and, even if Degas did know Raphaël at son

maître d'armes in the Louvre connection with his double portrait of *Valérie* seems strictly coincidental, it is a show which makes you think, and throws light on many, besides Raphaël - almost everything Raphaël, in fact.

Another artistic inkblot test is in *Electra*, the enormous show of electricity and electronics in twentieth-century art at the Musée d'Art Moderne la Ville de Paris until February 5. show may well be altogether enormous, trying to cover too much there are several sections that look like hard copy. But any exhibition introduced by Fontana's beautiful neon ceiling-lit, and featuring the recent work of Liliane Lijn, Jan Van Munster and S. cannot be all bad. Moreover, there are historical sections, inspired no doubt the permanent presence in the gallery Dufy's giant mural for the 1937 exposition *La Félicité*.

Elsewhere in Paris the large and terms of French taste, epoch-making of Turner, sponsored by the British Council, continues to draw the large crowds - larger even than Raphaël - at Grand Palais (until January 16). At Palais de Tokyo an informal show of acquisitions for the forthcoming Musée d'Orsay (on indefinitely, it would seem) amazes by the variety and quality of materials, especially in such unlikely areas as nineteenth-century British painting and *fin-de-siècle* French academic art. Photographs of Hans Bellmer at the Centre Pompidou (until February 2) provide a useful stalking-horse for Balthus, in that Bellmer's semi-surreal obsession with tied-up women, whether actual or symbolized through dolls and store dummies, though it aspires towards art, remains somehow too insistently in the realm of the grubby maskintosh. As out at the Musée National des Arts et Traditions Populaires there is yet another inkblot show, entitled *Saint Sébastien et Figures* (until April 16).

To medieval adherents Sebastian was considered most effective against plague and when depicted in art often just demurely held a single arrow to denote his fate. With the Renaissance and the Baroque it was all agony and ecstasy, dubiously intertwined. For the decadents, notably Moreau, D'Annunzio and Debussy - he became par excellence the genius of the perverse. And what now? The show, scrupulously historical, does not tell us, but Alfred Courmet is not the only living French painter to be obsessed with the legend. Why? The show poses the question, and leaves us to decide for ourselves.

John Russell Taylor

Concert

Taverner Consort
Wigmore Hall

And now, the Taverner Consort's New Year revolution: minimalist Bach. The theory of Joshua Rifkin, propounded in America a couple of years ago and more recently in *The Musical Times*, that Bach's choruses were not such things but actually collections of solo voices, has met with a somewhat dusty reception from musicologists. On the other hand, the practical demonstration of this theory in Rifkin's recording of Bach's B minor Mass has been rather well received. Andrew Parrott, the Taverner's director, is convinced by both the theory and the practice; he has already

experimented with extensive solo passages in his Bach performances (witness his B minor Mass at the Proms), and on Sunday night took the idea to its logical conclusion. Bach's short Mass in G (BWV 236) and the fifth cantata from the Christmas Oratorio were presented with one singer and one instrumentalist to each part; whatever the rights and wrongs of the idea, the result was an unqualified delight. It was easy to imagine the Mass sounding from some provincial German organ loft, and the brilliant resourcefulness with which Bach reduced the opening chorus of his grand *Reformation Cantata*, No 79, to form this Gloria - rewriting the two horn parts in the opening for soprano and alto voices - amply justified the solo-style

performance. There are few more complicated Bach textures than the strenuous fugues at the climax of this superb movement, and here they were expertly lucidly clarified and excitingly projected.

At the close of the Mass, the Cantata No 17 was triumphantly effective, and, earlier, the dancing rhythms of "Eure sel dir Gott" from the Christmas Oratorio, aided by the sparkling oboe d'amore playing, were invigorating. Tessa Bonner (who stood in for Emma Kirkby in the "choral" parts of the concert) was outstandingly good; Mary Nichols brought apt fervour to her recitatives; and while Nicholas Robertson and Alan Fairs sometimes struggled in the arias, they were lively and incisive in the choruses.

There is no reason why much more Bach should not be heard like this while the musicologists argue it out; Parrott might consider tightening the bottom of the texture a little, but there were no real problems of balance in this clear acoustic.

Emma Kirkby saved her voice for a couple of Purcell songs from *The Fairy Queen*, nicely turned; John Holloway demonstrated how natural and expressive florid ornamentation in Corelli's slow movements can sound; and David Staff bravely essayed trumpet sonatas by both Corelli and Purcell: a good idea to set Bach in the context of music that preceded him. Size of audience and enthusiasm of reception were anything but minimal.

Nicholas Kenyon

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

All the President's men but no Fed support

The American President now approaches the second greatest political challenge of his career - his reelection campaign. Yet, due to decisions he has made, he is unable to count on the Federal Reserve Board to cooperate in the overall planning of his reelection strategy. He cannot count on it as a reliable part of his team.

Two crucial decisions by the President have contributed to this serious situation. First, there was his decision to reappoint Mr Paul Volcker as Fed chairman. And second, there was his decision to appoint President Martin to the position of vice-chairman of the Fed when Mr Frederick Schultz retired.

These decisions by the President meant that the two most senior officials of the Fed were men who have been opposed to the policy line suggested by the President's own officials in the Treasury.

In one set of critical policy decisions made by the Fed, the treasury officials have already proved to be correct in their strong dissent from Fed policy.

Many of today's problems in money management go back to the Fed's decision in 1982 to institute an explosion in money growth.

Early last year, the treasury economic policy officials, led by Mr Beryl Sprinkel, Under-Secretary of the Treasury, predicted that there would be double-digit growth of nominal gross national product in 1983. This was also the view taken by the shadow open market committee and it was a view strongly endorsed in our American Notebook.

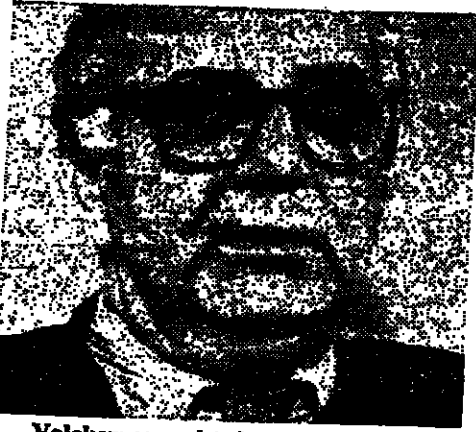
The Fed economic policy officials, led by President Martin and including Governor Wallach and Mr Stephen Axilrod, argued that the people would want to hold more money, not to spend it and accordingly, the surge in money M1 growth would translate into only a modest stimulant to economic growth.

This view by Fed officials has proved to be disastrously wrong. As a result, the US has seen a powerful surge of economic expansion, which has threatened to turn into an inflationary boom. Panicked by the consequences of their own policy, Fed officials are now saying that inflation is the big danger and that they must "lead against the wind" by maintaining their policy of a freeze on banks' reserves which has been in force since April.

Once again, there is a split between the Treasury and the Fed. As is evident from the public statements of treasury officials such as Mr Donald Regan, Secretary of the Treasury and Mr Manuel Johnson, assistant secretary for economic policy, the treasury officials believe the present Fed policy is only restrictive and, if maintained will lead to a sharp decline in economic growth beginning about the early second quarter of 1984.

The "consensus" forecast of a 4.5 per cent rise in gross national product this year is the expected growth in the second year of a recovery, after the normal 7.6 per cent rise in the first year.

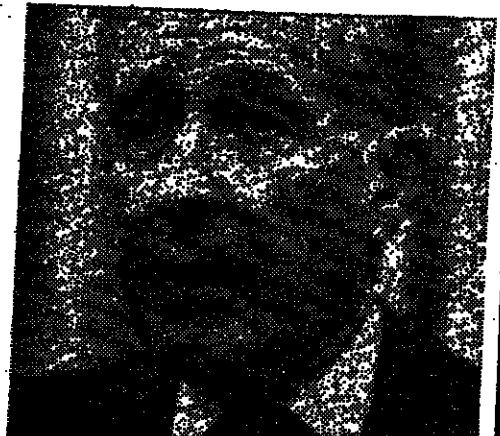
The president's problem is that Mr Volcker and President Martin, the two



Volcker: committed to fight inflation



Sprinkel: strong dissent proved correct



Regan: condemning Fed's restrictive policy

men he appointed about a year ago, are utterly committed to the prevailing official Fed line. That line is that inflation is still the main danger. It is true that inflation is a very serious danger. It is so because of the Fed's ill-advised policy of extravagant monetary growth in 1982-83. Nothing will alter the fact that inflation is going to be a serious problem this year and next, although there are some secular influences that may moderate the impact of inflation.

But having said that, there is the problem of zero economic growth in the US this year. And the men who are supporting and leading this dangerous policy are the ones whom President Reagan unwisely appointed.

Brick defences under attack

Hanson Trust's formal offer document to back its £170m bid for London Brick made interesting reading over the New Year and should have the market for the two companies' shares when the City gets back to work this morning.

Hanson pulls no punches in its attack on London Brick's performance. London Brick's profit record over the five years 1978 to 1982 could "at best be described as unexciting," Hanson says. Pretax profits were down from £14.1m in 1978 to £10.7m in 1982 before recovering to only £15.3m in 1982.

It is expected that London Brick's results for 1983 will be considerably better than for 1982, Hanson admits. But the profits record and fluctuations in the fleeton brick market, Hanson questions whether the progress will be maintained. In particular, Hanson asks whether City estimates of £24m pretax profits at London Brick this year will be the result of one-off stock profits and rationalization.

Lord Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust and a proven winner after takeover successes such as UDS and Ever Ready, also points out that the 120p per share offer compares with the 75p market price for London Brick in August.

Against this, London Brick will be able to use the £24m profits forecast as the mainstay of its defence, with a 50 per cent increase in the dividend a strong possibility.

London Brick's arguments are less convincing when they move to the grounds for a referral of the bid to the Monopolies Commission. The bid is before the Office of Fair Trading which will make a decision on referral before first closing date of Hanson's offer on January 20.

Given these arguments, the only certainty is that Hanson is likely to come back with a higher offer than 120p with or without a monopolies investigation - which must be seen as opening shot by Hanson.

Broker co... as danger... leading

The public sector borrowing requirement has become a "dangerously misleading" measure of the Government's fiscal policy, the stockbroker firm Laing and Cruckshank says in its economic and monetary review today.

The firm says that borrowing for productive investment by state industries should be excluded and the impact of unemployment and inflation acknowledged.

There was little change to the PSBR in cash terms between 1979-80 and 1982-83. But the deficit central and local government which excludes loans to nationalized industry - after taking out sales of council houses and other assets - has jumped by £7,000m, the firm's economists say.

Fiscal policy has relaxed considerably since 1981-82 though it remains tight in absolute terms, Laing and Cruckshank says, adjusting for

the rise in unemployment in 1979, which swells the budget value of the Government's liabilities.

The minimum change, the broker says, should be for the Government to continue its strategy - which is borrowing as a national output - the general government deficit strip house sales and actions in existing number of city economies.

On the economy, Cruckshank expects growth this year as last, but falling only 1 per cent.

This compares Treasury's forecast of 1.5 per cent expansion in 1983 and 1984.

Insurance sets sales record

By Andrew Cornells

The Prudential Corporation - Britain's biggest life insurance group - and the Life Association of Scotland have indicated that 1983 was a record year for sales of life insurance.

Prudential reports an 11 per cent expansion worldwide new annual premiums to £310.3m. Much of the increase stemmed from the home market because the introduction of Miras (mortgage interest relief at source) encouraged policyholders to take out insurance-linked mortgages, this was also the main reason for a 27 per cent rise, to £100.4m in new individual annual premiums.

New annual premiums for industrial life business, at £72.3m, were marginally down at the Prudential, while the growth of pensions business was affected by the recession.

Overseas new annual premiums climbed from £7m to £34.9m.

Life Association of Scotland confirmed the improved trend by indicating that sales of life insurance in Britain were two and a half times greater in 1983 than the previous year.

Group figures show that total new premium income grew to £43m against £36.8m in 1982.

£54m leg-up sought for projects

By Our Correspondent

The Scottish Development Agency said in Glasgow yesterday it had received 30 requests for aid under the second round of its scheme named (Local Enterprise Grants for Urban Projects).

The development value of projects, if they all go ahead, will total £54m and the applicants are requesting £10m in assistance.

Plans which have been submitted include a multi-million-pound city centre redevelopment in Glasgow, a leisure, culture, several hotels, industrial and commercial warehousing.

The SDA will announce the successful applicants in the next two months.

LEG-UP was set up last year to assist urban initiatives in Scotland, which would create jobs or improve environmental and social conditions.

Most of the aid is expected to take the form of low-interest loans and equity participation. In the first round, nearly £6m was committed to 35 projects - as a result, 1,500 jobs will either be created or safeguarded.

Applications for the third round of LEG-UP funds must be received before the end of this month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudis back in surplus

Riyadh (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's balance of trade swung back into surplus in the third quarter of 1982 after two quarters in deficit.

The country achieved a surplus of 14.5 billion riyals (about £2.86 billion) after a deficit of 3.26 billion riyals in the second quarter and a deficit of 1.03 billion in the first.

The country has a surplus for the whole of 1982 of 131.7 billion riyals.

An increase in oil exports in the third quarter was the most significant reason for the turnaround.

US companies built more cars last year than in any other year since 1979, according to a trade journal. Domestic car makers assembled about 6.7 million vehicles - 33.6 per cent more than the 5.07 million built in 1982, which was a 23-year low.

Orders for the West German mechanical engineering industry rose by 7 per cent in real terms in November, compared with November, 1982.

Worked... ignored

Six hundred workers at the Novus Inn in Milan, turned out as usual yesterday for the annual metalworkers' union

Signor Alessandro Tomaso, a former race-bought the plant in 1981 with the help of the BL with the state rescue BL retains a residual interest.

The 600 workers who third of the workforce

New York (Reuters) - Petroleum has formally posed that about half of Oil Corporation's assets be off to Gulf shareholders.

Mesa, which heads a dent investor group that more than 13 per cent of outstanding stock, proposed a letter to Gulf's board directors that by June 30 year at least 50 per cent of company's proven US oil natural gas reserves be given to shareholders in the form of royalty trust.

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Maynards defence due soon

By Jonathan Clare

The defence document from Maynards, the sweet and toy company, against Mr Lewis Cartier's partial bid worth £6.3m is expected this week.

Last week Mr Cartier explained what had gone wrong with Cartier Sports and Leisure, a little-known retail company which shut up shop in March 1982 after disastrous trading.

The episode is not mentioned in his offer document for Maynards under the section dealing with "My previous experience in retailing", an omission which some City observers say is unfortunate.

Mr Cartier said that after he and his fellow directors sold out the highly successful Cartiers Superfoods chain to Tesco in 1979 for nearly £20m they took back a supermarket in north London on a 10-acre site because it had no planning permission.

Some former Cartiers Superfoods executives did not want to join Tesco and set up Cartier Sport and Leisure in buildings next to this site with a second outlet to sell a complete cross-section of leisure goods from football boots to hi-fi. At the time, Mr Cartier said he thought the idea could grow into a 50-strong chain within five years.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Jobless may fall again

The unemployment figures for December, due on Thursday, are likely to provide the main focus of interest for economy watchers this week, while the dollar will be the centre of attention for the financial markets.

The dollar eased last week as fears of higher interest rates receded and dealers will be waiting for the markets to open this week to see if a definite turning point has been reached.

Recorded unemployment has fallen slightly in recent months and analysts believe another fall is possible in December, helped by the big expansion of the Youth Training Scheme. Other statistics out this week include the December official reserves and October overseas travel and tourism figures (today), personal income and saving and companies' appropriation account for the third quarter (Thursday) and November final car and commercial vehicle production (Friday).

STOCK EXCHANGES

CHANGE ON WEEK

FT Index: 775.7 up 0.7
FT Gilts: 83.12 down 0.03
FT All Share: 470.5 up 1.26
Bargains: 17.014
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 97.89 up 2.19
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: 1259.55 up 8.64
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9893.82 up 209.65
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 874.94 up 7.64
Amsterdam: 161.6 up 3.8
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 104.17 up 10.0
Brussels: General Index: 135.16 down 0.28
Paris: CAC Index: 156.7 up 2.9
Zurich: SKA General: 316.90 up 4.1

CURRENCIES

LONDON

CHANGE ON WEEK

Sterling: \$1.4515 up 185pts
Index: 82.9 up 0.4
DM: 3.9550 up 0.005
FF: 12.07 down 0.015
Yen: 336.50 down 18.5
Dollar: Index n.a.
DM: 2.7220 down 0.0345
NEW YORK
Sterling: \$1.4515
Dollar: DM 2.7230
INTERNATIONAL
ECU: £0.570800
SDR: £0.725168

WHY NOT YOU MAKE TO HEAR ABOUT OUR NEW YEAR SOLUTION



On 31st Dec
businesses of Sta
Merchant Bank and
merged under Ad
The merger u
new year, but a wh
opportunity for St
Merchant Bank and
We have becom

merchant banks in London, able to offer a wide range of competitive financial services domestically and internationally.

Our operating base, strong in both human and financial resources, is reinforced by membership of the Standard Chartered Group - the largest independent international banking group in the United Kingdom.



Standard Chartered
Bank Limited
International Merchant Bank

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9
3 month interbank 9½-9¾
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9¾
3 month DM 6-5½
3 month FF 13½-13¾
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9½
Treasury long bond 10½-10¾

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: Air Group, Delmar Group and TSB Gilt Fund (quarterly). Finals: Winterbottom Energy Trust.
TOMORROW - Interims: Hollas Group, Mountleigh Group, Radiant Metal Finishing and T R City of London Trust (second quarterly dividend). Finals: None.
THURSDAY - Interims: Electronic Rentals, Howden Group. Finals: None.
FRIDAY - Interims: None. Finals: Watson and Philip.

World coal demand estimates cut

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Estimates of coal's importance as a primary fuel until the end of the century have been revised downward to take into account the effects of economic recession since 1979.

The World Coal Study - on which producers such as the National Coal Board base long-term plans - now estimates that by the year 2000 world trade in steam coal could be between 250 million and 500 million tonnes a year. Previously the study had estimated demand between 300 million and 680 million tonnes.

Although the study has been revised downward, its projections for coal consumption are still far in excess of present world demand, which in 1982 totalled 90 million tonnes a year.

Mr Michael Parker, head of the NCB Central Planning Unit, says in the latest *Coal and Energy Quarterly* that despite the generally more pessimistic outlook for world economic growth, trade in steam coal is likely to grow substantially

between now and the end of the century.

Western Europe will be one of the major demand centres for coal. Supplies will come from the US, South Africa, and even Colombia, which will grow as a major world coal trader as its mining industry develops, according to Mr Parker.

In the same issue of *Coal and Energy Quarterly*, the head of the NCB's research establishment, Dr A. D. Dainton, examines research into liquid fuels from coal and concludes that the NCB's own project has the potential to produce fuels equal in performance to those produced from oil.

The NCB's liquid solvent extraction process is to be evaluated at a 2.5 tonne a day pilot plant for which a design contract has recently been placed. Studies already suggest a commercial plant producing 10,000 tonnes of liquid fuel from coal could be built with an investment of £1 billion at 1983 prices.

Figure 1. The effect of the number of trials on the number of correct responses. The number of correct responses was plotted against the number of trials for each condition. The number of correct responses increased with the number of trials for all conditions. The number of correct responses was highest for the condition with the highest number of trials (10 trials) and lowest for the condition with the lowest number of trials (2 trials).

Macmillan and Alexander 'link in Tito's killings'

By a Staff Reporter

Documents shedding new light on the role of Mr Harold Macmillan, the former Prime Minister, and the late Field Marshal Lord Alexander in the forcible repatriation of 26,000 Yugoslavs in May, 1945, many of whom were tortured and killed by Tito's partisans, will be shown on BBC television tonight.

In its documentary *The Klagenfurt Affair*, BBC 2's *Timewatch* programme claims that Lord Alexander, then Allied Supreme Commander in the Mediterranean, with the concurrence of Mr Macmillan, at that time British Prime Minister Resident at Caserta, near Naples, overrode instructions from Whitehall and Washington that the Yugoslavs should be screened and only genuine Mazi collaborators handed over to Tito. *Timewatch* says its researches show:

● That the massacre of the Yugoslavs did take place including those of the wives and children of Chetniks, the non-communist Yugoslav resistance army.

● That their repatriation in defiance of Cabinet instructions was ordered by Lord Alexander and his political adviser, Mr Macmillan.

● That British officers leading them on to trains in southern Austria lied to the Yugoslavs about their destinations; that some officers requested to be relieved of the duty after a handful of Yugoslavs escaped back into Austria and reported the shootings.

The programme quotes Foreign Office documents from September, 1945, which describe the repatriation as "a shabby mistake". In November, 1945, Major Guy Lloyd, MP, asked the Foreign Office for an explanation. A reply was drafted (though it was not sent) by Mr (now Sir) John Colville.

"We can do no more," it read, "than admit that a serious blunder did take place and that the story does not reflect well on the officers immediately concerned."

Timewatch makes it clear that the repatriation took place in the weeks after the German surrender with southern Austria in chaos as Tito's partisans (who claimed the province of Carinthia, where the refugees were camped, as Yugoslav territory) jostled with the British 8th Army for supremacy.

Macmillan noted in his diary after a fact-finding visit to Klagenfurt in Carinthia on May 13, "seemed to be drifting dangerously towards something like war."

The programme suggests, after interviewing British officers concerned (though the records are imperfect, that a deal may have been struck with Tito, that the partisans would withdraw from Carinthia if the refugees were handed over.

What is clear, the programme states, is that on May 14, within hours of Mr Macmillan's return to Caserta from Klagenfurt, the order for the repatriation was issued.

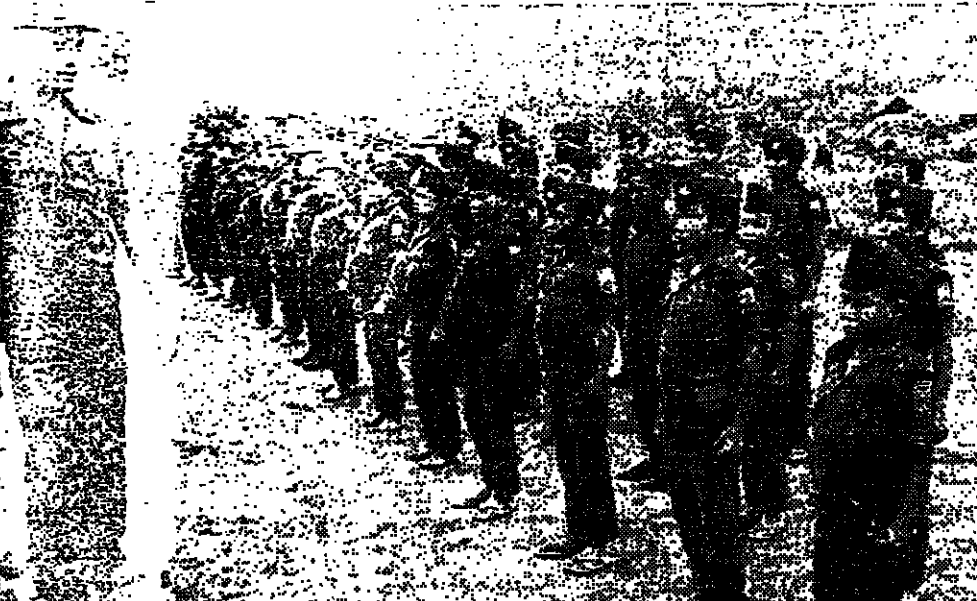
On April 29, however, Mr Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, had written that "There is no doubt they [the Yugoslavs] should be disarmed and placed in refugee camps. This is the only possible solution."

On May 3, the British 8th Army received the instructions: "Chetniks, troops of Mihailovic [a Yugoslav royalist leader later executed by Tito] and other dissident Yugoslavs, will be regarded as surrendered personnel and will be treated accordingly. The ultimate disposal of these personnel will be decided on government levels."

Timewatch, in its attempt to explain the repatriation in defiance of orders from Whitehall, has discovered a document in the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series which shows that Mr Macmillan's American opposite number at Caserta, Mr Alexander Kirk, refused to support the May 14 order.

Lord Aldington, who as Brigadier Toby Low, was chief-of-staff of the 8th Army Corps, which carried out the repatriation, is interviewed in the programme. He is asked to explain why the order of May 14 (instructing that all Yugoslav nationals who had served in the German Army were to be sent back) was withdrawn on May 17 to: "All Yugoslav nationals at present in the corps area will be handed over to Tito forces as soon as possible."

Lord Aldington replies: "I do not think there was any widening just, as you say, a hurried and loose use of language. It was not meant to go further than all Yugoslav nationals in uniform who had been fighting with the Germans."



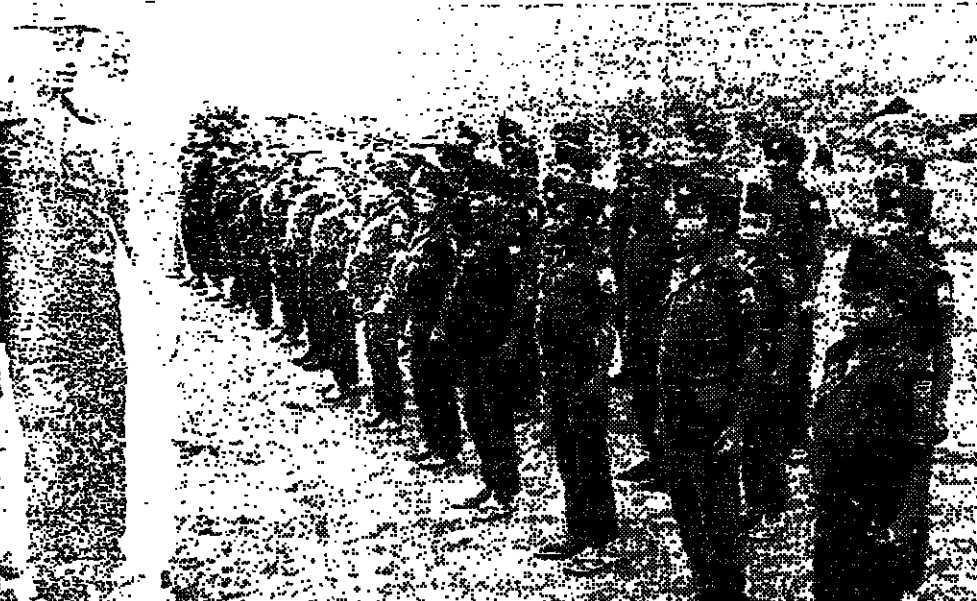
Boy troops of Burma's forgotten revolution

For more than 30 years the world's least-known guerrilla war has been raging on the frontier between Burma and Thailand. There the Karen Christian minority group of 1,500,000 have been struggling for independence since Buddhist Burma won its freedom from British colonial rule.

The Karen prowess as warriors has enabled them to withstand continuing pressure from the vastly superior Burmese forces, maintaining their rule over a 600-mile slice of Burmese border territory and financing their revolution by levying duties at the lucrative border checkpoints.

The long war of attrition has taken its toll, however, and the Karen leader, General Bo Mya, has been forced to call up boys as young as 12, like Pussycat (left) and the youngsters on parade below, to arm and train them for guard duty and even to fight real battles.

In November, the war took a new turn when the Karen kidnapped M Jacques Bossu, a French technician and his wife and are holding them hostage to try to force the French Government to recognize Bo Mya's Karen National Union as the legitimate government of an independent nation. They are still being held.



Letter from Calcutta Hazards of building a tube Indian style

Chowringhee Road - no one except American tourists calls it Jawaharlal Nehru Road, the name on the map - used to be one of the grand thoroughfares of the Empire. The pillars and pilasters of the Grand Hotel and the domes of the life assurance offices looked out over the pleasant green of the Calcutta maidan.

Trees and sports grounds abounded then and in the distance the pleasant cupolas and kiosks of the Victorian memorial floated like the sails of a galleon.

The memorial floats there still, looming occasionally through the smog and much of the maidan is still there, but from Chowringhee Road you would not know it: the street is separated from the greensward by acres of excavations, the carriage-way is narrowed to half its former width by piles of mud solidified into mountainous shapes and Himalayas of stone chippings spill into the paths of oncoming - slowly oncoming - traffic.

Iron girders rust in heaps with piles of concrete reinforcing bars, a trap for the unwary pedestrian, an ugly cicatrix across what should be the nearest the city has to a beauty spot.

Calcutta is constructing an underground railway. The city decided in 1973 to build it, hoping it would be opened in 1980.

But work did not start until 1978 and the completion target now is officially 1987. Even that may be optimistic and in the meantime the citizens are having to put up with the dust, the traffic jams and the unsightliness of the workings as the contractors pried with their usual total disregard of the public.

In one particularly busy part of Calcutta, building was plainly going to cause severe congestion, so arrangements were made to speed the work. Instead of being built by Indian engineers, an exception was made, to allow worldwide tenders.

The roads were closed and the preliminary digging done, but since early last year, when tenders were received, the authorities have been unable to decide whom to give the work. To have, accordingly, been intensely aggravating traffic jams in the area.

In the early stages of the project, some contractors were dismissed because of another typically Indian hazard in

large-scale expenditure - corruption. Even now there is a dispute between the communist-led Government of West Bengal and the central Government's Railway Minister over who should be blamed for the delays.

Mr A. B. A. Ghani Khan Choudhury, the Railway Minister, himself a Bengali, last week was trying to gain as much favourable publicity as he could out of the project by inviting Mr Rajiv Gandhi, son of the Prime Minister, to go in a tube train over a completed section of the track.

The short stretch of line had been cleared up for the occasion, much to the anger of Calcuttans, who want the whole thing cleaned up.

Last month, though, a pressure group, the Consumer Protection Centre, won a big battle in this respect. They took the tube builders to court to get a ban on the dumping of construction material on the highway. The judge called for a special report by court officers on the building of the underground, which turned out to be an indictment of the contractors' inefficiency and lack of consideration.

The officers found the consumer centre's allegations to be correct and made suggestions which in themselves are condemnation of the underground authority.

The judge has ordered that the clean-up be done. What people are now anxiously waiting to see is how the order will be enforced.

There are also reservations about how the underground will operate when it is finally completed. The line, a single tunnel 10 miles long from Dum-Dum, close to the airport, to Tollygunge in the south, will have 17 stations and is being built by the cut-and-cover system. Some people fear it will fill with water in the monsoon.

The authorities insist that it will not.

Even so, say the cynics, how will you stop the impoverished citizens of Calcutta, whose normal abode is the pavements from taking advantage of the new dry tunnels to build their homes in? And will it not involve a massacre of squatters each time the electricity is switched on in the morning and the trains begin to run?

Michael Hamlyn

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Exhibitions in progress

David Donaldson retrospective; City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until Jan 28).

Portraits: "Scottish Connections"; Gallery 9, Aberdeen Art Galleries, School Hill, Aberdeen; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 7).

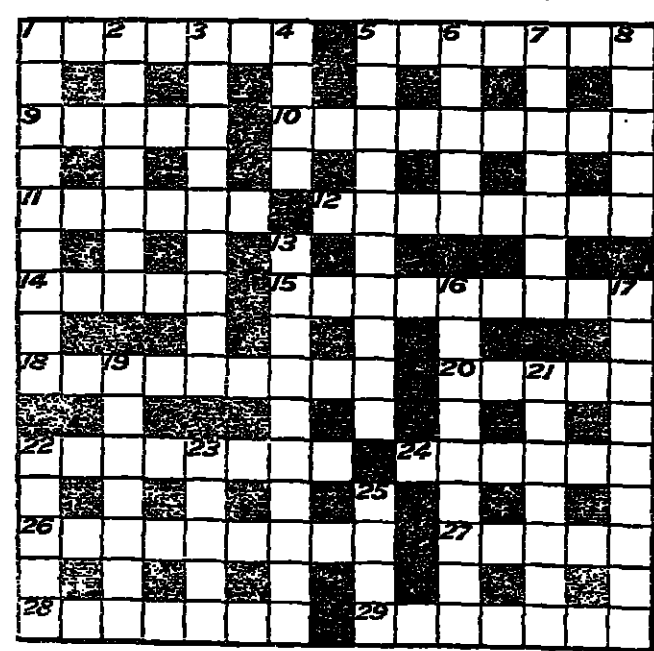
Three photographers: Stephen Farthing, Douglas Malpas and Ian Stott; Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.50, Sat 10 to 5, closed Wed and Sun (until Jan 28).

Paintings by Peter Sutton; City Museum and Art Gallery, Priests' Walk, Peterborough; Tues to Sat 12 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (until Jan 7).

Flowers of Britain and Europe: colour prints and slides by Desmond and Marjorie Parish; also Modern Artist Craftsman; an exhibition by four craftsmen, both at the National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (until Jan 31).

Last chance to see Victorian Paintings Workshop.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,325



ACROSS

- Bevan called for this vitamin (7).
- Muscular in, Swede being out of order (7).
- With State backing, concealed bug in garden (5).
- Place for which a mere bird of fancy heads (9).
- Get out and about returning from ball (6).
- Naturally there's a pub in fenland city (8).
- This is a bridge to which society attached value (5).
- Inferior sort of world standard (13-5).
- ... means endless politics (9).
- These days, there's no logic initially in bringing back Dallas (5).
- Support team at the bottom (8).
- On balance, board will allow alternative motion (3-3).
- There's a bird in the hedge (9).
- River Lee diverted in Dorset (5).
- Hill recently containing dugout (7).
- The German left the lake dry (7).

DOWN

- However fast, regardless (2,3,4).
- Urges former partner to give short change (7).
- Bandaged again by Dr S, said to be a bit of a broken reed (9).
- Dickensian little shopgirl (4).
- Year of general dissolution, according to Moses (10).
- As usual, she hasn't a pound! (5).
- Primitive Australian missile-launcher still in use (7).
- This bird is an easy catch (5).
- Kind of centre where offenders, not yet in their teens, perhaps get caged (10).
- The key is to tone down the paint (9).
- In the new order women tend to show a kind of assurance (9).
- On the first of December the little devil gets drunk (7).
- The pound is a little flexible (7).
- Infant left in scene of confusion (5).
- Tom Jones's girl has another spell in Bulgaria (5).
- She's a shorty part with the outbuilding (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,324



CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending December 31st

- Coronation Street (Mon), (Granada), 10.00m
- Coronation Street (Wed), (Granada), 10.00m
- Coronation Street (Fri), (Granada), 10.00m
- Coronation Street (Sat), (Granada), 10.00m
- Coronation Street (Sun), (Granada), 10.00m
- Coronation Street (Mon), (Granada), 10.00m
- Coronation Street (Wed), (Granada), 10.00m
- Coronation Street (Fri), (Granada), 10.00m
- Coronation Street (Sat), (Granada), 10.00m
- Coronation Street (Sun), (Granada), 10.00m

The papers

The Royal Family never seems to understand the deep offence it gives to millions of people by its passion for killing animals for sport, the Daily Mirror says. "Prince Philip refused to recognize the contradiction in his being president of the World Wildlife Fund and an enthusiastic supporter of game birds and deer."

The paper adds: "No one doubts the old life population needs to be controlled. But when Prince Philip and his sons (and his son-in-law) go out shooting they are not acting as conservation officers. They do it because they enjoy the killing."

"Shooting at Sandringham and Balmoral has always been part of the Royal Family's holidays and it is hypocritical of Prince Philip to pretend otherwise."

"This is getting ridiculous," says the Daily Express. "First Mrs Thatcher's Government, appearing mean-spirited and petty, excludes Social Democrats leader, Dr David Owen, from last year's annual evening-dinner ceremony at the Cenotaph. Now, instead of a similar controversy this year, it is thinking of barring Liberal leader, Mr David Steel."

The paper concludes: "Just one MP should be at the Cenotaph, having a wreath on behalf of all our nuclear defence. In the light of Mr Kinnock's support for party policy that would scrap British nuclear weapons."

The paper says there is "clear evidence that the overwhelming majority of the British people are simply not prepared to surrender our nuclear defence. Unless Kinnock and Co accept this fact of life they might as well prepare for a nuclear war in the wilderness."

The Washington Post yesterday criticized the Israeli Government's withdrawal from the Golan Heights and activities of the PLO as terrorist and a move for the necessary purpose of combating terrorism but for the purpose of suppressing Palestinian nationalism.

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Roads

London and South-east A40: New layout at Western Avenue between Horsenden Lane and Medway Parade long delays.

Midlands A6: Roadworks at Topley Pike, Derbyshire; temporary signals. A53: Temporary signals at St John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire. A61: Temporary signals at Whittington Moor, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Wales and West M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across the Severn Bridge, both carriageways affected. A47: Lane closures at Glyntaf, near Pontypridd, Mid-Glamorgan; temporary traffic signals at Cefn Codi. A417 (old A40): Delays and diversions along St Oswald's, Gloucester.

North A19/A1046: Reconstruction works at Portrack roundabout, north of River Tees. A575: Major sewer scheme at Egerton Street, Farnworth, Greater Manchester; diversions. Liverpool Queensway Tunnel closed nightly; all traffic is being diverted via the Liverpool to Wallasey tunnel between 1.15pm and 5.45am.

Scotland: A956: Construction of a roundabout on Wellington Road at South Esplanade West, Aberdeen; care required. A97: Reconstruction work south of Selkirk, Selkirkshire; single lane traffic with temporary traffic lights. A94: Restricting near Glasgow; single lane traffic with temporary traffic lights.

Information supplied by the AA

Air

Thick fog has closed Lisbon airport to all incoming flights since the new year and no flights have left since Sunday evening. More than 50 Lisbon-bound international and domestic flights have been cancelled or diverted to Oporto in the north. Faro in the south and Barcelona in Spain.

Road, rail and ferry links with the Portuguese capital have also been hampered by fog.

Travelers to Portugal are advised to consult their travel agents, or airlines before setting off.

Anniversaries

Birth: Pietro Metastasio, poet and librettist, Rome, 1698; Clement Attlee, 1st Earl, prime minister (1945-51), London, 1883; James Bridie (Eliza Petric), actress, playwright, Glasgow, 1858; R. R. Tolkien, author of *The Lord of the Rings*, Bloomsbury, South Africa, 1892.

Deaths: Luca Giordano, painter, Naples, 1705; Josiah Wedgwood, Etruria, Staffordshire, 1795; Rachel (Eliza Petric), actress, playwright, Glasgow, 1858; R. R. Tolkien, author of *The Lord of the Rings*, Bloomsbury, South Africa, 1892.

Weather forecast

A rather cold and showery NW airmass covers Britain.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E, central E England, East Anglia, Midlands: Sunny or clear periods with scattered showers, some drizzle on hills, drying out, dry roads perhaps by evening; wind SW, veering NW, strong, decreasing moderate later; max temp 42 (38F).

Cheshire, Lancashire, SW England, S Wales: Sunny or clear intervals, showers, perhaps drizzle on hills, becoming isolated later, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Frequent showers, some drizzle on hills, becoming isolated later, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

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SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

Weather forecast

A rather cold and showery NW airmass covers Britain.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E, central E England, East Anglia, Midlands: Sunny or clear periods with scattered showers, some drizzle on hills, drying out, dry roads perhaps by evening; wind SW, veering NW, strong, decreasing moderate later; max temp 42 (38F).

Cheshire, Lancashire, SW England, S Wales: Sunny or clear intervals, showers, perhaps drizzle on hills, becoming isolated later, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Frequent showers, some drizzle on hills, becoming isolated later, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

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SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

Weather forecast

A rather cold and showery NW airmass covers Britain.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E, central E England, East Anglia, Midlands: Sunny or clear periods with scattered showers, some drizzle on hills, drying out, dry roads perhaps by evening; wind SW, veering NW, strong, decreasing moderate later; max temp 42 (38F).

Cheshire, Lancashire, SW England, S Wales: Sunny or clear intervals, showers, perhaps drizzle on hills, becoming isolated later, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Frequent showers, some drizzle on hills, becoming isolated later, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

SE, central E England, Berkshire, Edinburgh and Dundee: Sunny intervals, some showers, some drizzle, becoming isolated the evening, perhaps dry roads; wind NW, strong, locally cold, decreasing fresh later; max temp 4 to 10 (37 to 50F).

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